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Malls for the serious shopper

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Getaway in a Beijing hamlet

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Gunpowder artist's work an Olympic ceremony surprise

By He Jianwei

While many focus on the firework displays that will light up the Olympic night, artist Cai Guoqiang is doing something different with gunpowder.

Cai has created a series of works out of the ancient explosive to tell a story at the opening ceremony on August 8. His works were previously exhibited at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art.

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City opens its parks to demonstrators

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Archdiocese opens to foreign priests

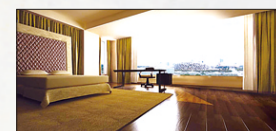
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Bus bombings not Olympic terrorism

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Gates wants the 10 mln courtyard

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City opens 3 downtown, venue parks to Olympic demonstrators

By He Jianwei

Contrary to reports in Western media, demonstrators will be allowed to hold signs at the Olympics – they just cannot take them into the stadiums.

The city's demonstration zones will be in Beijing World Park in Fengtai District, Zizhuyuan Park in Haidian District and Ritan Park in Chaoyang District, Liu Shaowu, director of BOCOG Security Department, said at a press conference at the Main Press Center on Wednesday.

The three parks are located either downtown or near the

competition venues. To guarantee smooth traffic and prevent riots or similar conflicts, all demonstration activity must take place in a specified zone. "This is the same thing other countries have done at past Olympics," Liu said.

"In Beijing World Park, demonstrations may be held in front of the Italian Terrace Garden square," Liu Huiming, manager of Market Department of Beijing World Park, said.

During the Olympic Games, if demonstrators appear in the park, Beijing World Park will not close its doors, and business

will continue as usual, the manager said.

On Tuesday, Beijing World Park had a rehearsal for the demonstration. "Everything went smoothly and we are confident we can guarantee the demonstrators' security," he said.

"We are not allowed to decide the exact time during which demonstrations may take place – BOCOG will notify us if there are any demonstrations scheduled and we must remain on standby," he said.

The athletes and the visitors can express any views – political or otherwise – in the des-

ignated zones, but they are not allowed to promote commercial or non-commercial ideas in the Olympic venues. "It is a violation of the Olympic Charter if athletes promote their commercial, political, religious or racial ideas," Liu Shaowu said.

People who wish to demonstrate must submit an application to the BOCOG. According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Assemblies, Processions and Demonstrations, Chinese police are to protect the legal rights of anyone who attends an approved demonstration, Liu said.

Archdiocese readies to welcome foreign priests

By Li Pengcheng

Foreign priests brought to China by Olympic delegations will be permitted to conduct mass in local Catholic churches, according to a statement from the Catholic archdiocese of Beijing.

Some delegations have contacted the archdiocese to borrow affiliated churches for mass during the Games, a worker surnamed Han in the Immaculate Conception Cathedral's foreign affairs office said. The Church will provide whatever assistance it can to help them, but the exact number of foreign priests who will conduct mass at the church remains unclear, she said.

A few days ago, 17 Catholic volunteers went to the Olympic Village religious service center where they will serve until September 20 on a 24-hour shift. Some of the volunteers have studied abroad and can speak English, Italian, French and Korean. Outside of the Village, 20 Catholic churches, one nunnery and a Catholic philosophy college will be open to all visitors. Church volunteers are trained in language skills, Olympic knowledge and different ethnic customs and manners. Mass will be held in English, Latin and Spanish.

The China Christian Council said it plans to send 100,000 copies of the Bible and New Testament to the Olympic Village and churches in Beijing and other host cities, Xinhua reported. These bibles have the Olympic logo on the cover, and are endorsed by the committee of the Games.

The multi-faith religious center in the Olympic village provides service to athletes of all faiths and offers support for adherents to the world's five major religions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism.

First athletes arrive in Olympic Village

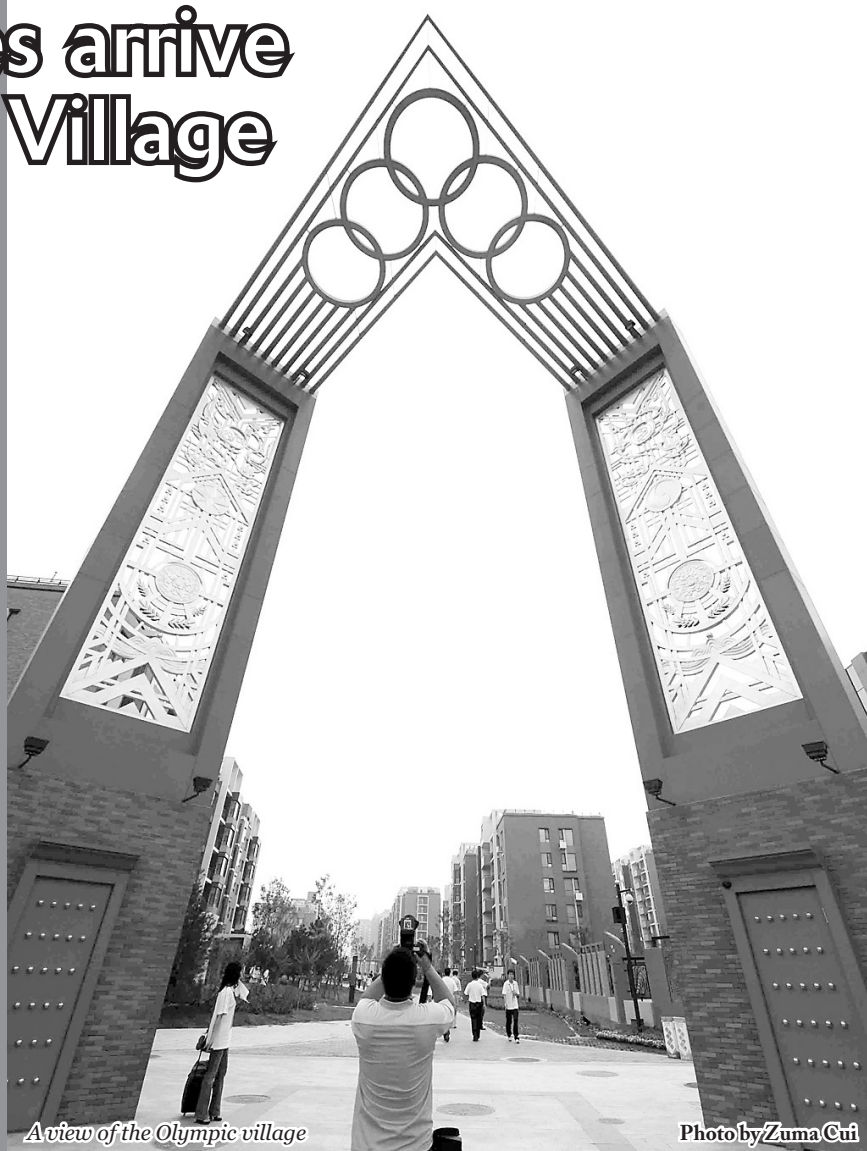
By Zheng Lu

The Australian delegation became the first team to settle in the Olympic Village when it arrived last Sunday for its registration conference.

The village officially opens this Sunday. As many as 16,000 athletes and officials from around the world will stay in its 40 buildings. Village suites are designed to house three, six or eight persons. Barrier-free equipment is designed to make it easier for the Paralympians when they come to town. Special beds are available for exceptionally tall athletes like Yao Ming.

The buffet area supplies 450 varieties of food for sportsmen from different cultural backgrounds and religions. Athletes will have totally different dishes at each meal throughout week. The dining hall runs around the clock.

Presently, almost all roads leading to the Olympic Village are closed to traffic. Only vehicles with special Olympic license are allowed to enter.



A view of the Olympic village

Photo by Zuma Cui

Smiling faces will light up Olympic opening

By Han Manman

The Olympic skies will be lit up by 2,008 smiley-face fireworks the night of the opening ceremony. The announcement Wednesday was the first government disclosure about opening and closing ceremony highlights.

From yellow dragons to red peonies to smiling faces, the birthplace of gunpowder will light up the sky with a 20-minute firework display, Wang Ning, executive deputy director of Opening and Closing Ceremonies Department of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), said at Wednesday's

press conference.

Wang said the host spent two years working on the fireworks plan to reflect Olympic ideals and create "a joyous and festive atmosphere of jubilation."

Some of the fireworks will be fired off to tell stories of Olympic history and depict the arrival of Olympic ideals in Beijing, Wang said. The shape of the Olympics Rings will be formed for the first time during the firework display.

At the beginning of the opening ceremony, 29 spots on the central axis of Beijing, from Yongding Gate to Tian'anmen Square and

all the way to the Bird's Nest, will launch special sparklers. Immediately after the national flag is hoisted and the national anthem sung, 22 spots in the National Stadium will launch fireworks that will explode into dragon-shaped fountains of red peonies and yellow dragons.

The climax will be release of fireworks depicting 2,008 smiling faces in the sky to accompany the display of thousands of pictures of smiling faces collected all over the world during the performances.

As for whether rain would affect the performance, Deng Shaohui, deputy director of

opening and closing ceremonies department of BOCOG, said drizzle will not have any affect on the performance, but moderate rain or heavy rain would force a cancellation of the fireworks performance.

Because the fireworks are hand-made, quality is a challenge. Deng said national standards allow for a 2 percent fail rate.

A trial display on July 16 has already given some people in Beijing a taste of what the fireworks can produce, including one that formed the five Olympic rings. On August 2, the second time trial display will be conducted.

Brief news

Gov urges transparency

The central government urged its departments to provide the public with free information to improve government transparency.

Government departments must provide free and timely information through Web sites, communiques, news conferences or media, Xu Kunlin, a National Development and Reform Commission official, said.

Airport to halt during Olympic opening

No planes will be allowed to take off or land at Beijing Capital International Airport from 7 pm to midnight on August 8, the night of the Olympic opening ceremony.

The security measure reflects the experience of past Olympic hosts and was approved by the government.

Police wage month war on fake guns, producers

Police have started a one-month crackdown on the production, sale and trafficking of fake guns to ensure security in the run up to the August Olympics.

Local police will destroy the marketing, storage and transport network of fake guns, and track down and bust sources of the illegal production.

(By Han Manman)

Peking duck goes extinct in UK

By Huang Daohen

Peking duck, the traditional Chinese dish adored by millions, may be removed from UK restaurants after the ovens failed to meet European Union standards, the London-based *Daily Mail* reported Monday.

The 6-foot-high drum shaped ovens, traditionally used to prepare the crispy duck, failed to comply with EU regulations on carbon monoxide emissions, the newspaper reported.

The clampdown came despite officials conceding that no health problems linked to the

China-made ovens have been found, it reported.

UK authorities shut down 10 restaurants in London – including some in its famous Chinatown. More in the capital will be hit in coming weeks, it reported.

The ban on Peking Duck has angered many Chinese cooks in the UK, because many restaurants have lost business.

The newspaper quoted celebrity chef Ken Hom as saying, "It's absurd. What do the Europeans know about making Peking duck?"

"No matter what happens, I

don't think Peking duck will lose its market. It's healthy and delicious," Hu Wei, a duck cook in Beijing with decades of experience, said.

Experts said the move was a misinterpretation of Chinese cooking. "Chinese dishes have always been subject to a lot of misunderstandings regarding quality and nutrition," Qiao Jie, vice secretary of the China Cuisine Association, told a press conference on Monday.

"Cooking is not only about science and nutrition, but also art," Qiao said.

Qiao suggested the government set up its own standards for traditional cooking equipment to protect the reputation of Chinese dishes around the world.

Quanjudu, one of the oldest Peking duck restaurants, said in a statement addressing the EU ban that it will not be affected since it has no outlets in Europe.

Guests in Beijing for the Games, athletes and visitors from the UK especially, should not worry about the duck, Quanjudu said. "Duck meat provided for athletes and officials will be 100 percent safe."

Residents swap houses to escape bus commute

By Gan Tian

Xue Shufen, a 29-year old editor, lives in Yizhuang, miles from downtown, but works on Guanghua Lu in CBD. Every day, he had to take two buses from home to work – a three-hour long commute.

Two years ago, Xue bought a car and slashed his road time to an hour and a half. However, since the odd-even car ban took effect, he is once again locked into the bus system.

Searching for a solution, Xue thought of Luo Rui, 28, a former schoolmate who lived near Guanghua Lu but bused out to his international company in Yizhuang.

"I came up with the idea of swapping houses," Xue said. He posed his idea to Luo, and the two agreed. After spending several days moving, the two friends ended up living in each other's apartment.

House swapping is not a new idea – it previously appeared on popular BBS sites like sofun.com, xicikutong, and tieba.baidu.com. Xue joined an online group where more than 50 members were searching for the "right" house swappers.

In most cases, the swappers have apartments in Shijingshan and Chaoyang districts. However, more people work in CBD than in the west end of town. Chet the Mammy, a netizen who lives near the Financial Street in Xicheng District, wanted to swap his apartment with a person who lives in the World Trade Center. "It is hard for me to find a suitable person. I think in Beijing, people usually set their bases in the east part," he said.

Swappers said the house switch could save money, time and energy for both sides. However, it is very possible to be taken advantage of, so both parties should work out rules, especially on utility fees, before signing any agreement.

Ministry denies ethnic discrimination in bars

By Annie Wei

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied media reports that foreigners are being discriminated against in Beijing Monday.

A Hong-Kong newspaper reported last week that local police instructed Beijing bar owners not to serve black people or Mongolians.

Liu Jianchao, a spokesman for the ministry, said the report was groundless. Liu said the ministry checked with the Beijing Public Security Bureau (PSB). All PSB departments, including Sanlitun's PSB, said they never asked any bar owners to deny service to any foreigners.

Currently, bars in Sanlitun and other areas are serving all clients as usual, Liu said.

Landlords come up short on Olympic tenants

By Annie Wei

Local landlords who planned to capitalize on Olympic tenants got an ugly surprise after giving long-term tenants the boot.

Earlier this year, real estate rental groups said the short-term Olympic rentals would peak in July. However, their predictions have not matched market reality.

Zhongda House, a real estate agency, said at most 8,000 apartments are under short-term rental for 23,000 yuan per month. These units cost 5,000 yuan or more during normal times.

Earlier this year, Homelink real estate polled the capital's landlords. According to the survey, 72 percent of all respondents said they would kick out their long-term tenants by June and start looking for short-term Olympic tenants.

Many landlords said they expect 3,000-4,000 yuan per day during the Games. However, Olympic-appointed hotels, youth hostels and inns ask for a cheaper rate. Many Olympic-appointed five-star hotels start at 2,140 yuan per night, and the hostels or small inns cost only 300-1,000 yuan per night.

Many landlords are slashing rent to attract short-term tenants, and some have gone back to signing long term contracts to stay out of the red.

515j, an agency at Yayuncun, said 30 percent of the Olympic short-term landlords have followed suit.

Shirley Yang, a sales person from Centerury 21 real estate, said she made over a dozen deals with customers last summer to rent apartments for 30,000 yuan per month. However, only one customer is interested this year.

Yang said the landlords' expectations are not realistic.

"The landlords do not want to lower their price from 60,000 yuan for two weeks to 30,000 yuan," Yang said, "But if the apartment is still available by the end of the month, I think they will have to accept the reduced rate."

Another agency said many apartments have been booked for the Olympics since 2006. Those without tenants are random landlords.

Although the Olympic apartment market has shrunk, regular rental rates remain unaffected. A sales agent from Century 21 said the company's apartments in the CBD area continue to be the same price.

102 Terra-cotta warriors shine during the Games



The Place will have an exhibit of 102 shining Terracotta warriors and carts from next Friday to August 25. It took 30 workers over four months to complete the project.

CFP Photo

Old Beijing items exposed in Andingmen exhibit

By Zhang Dongya

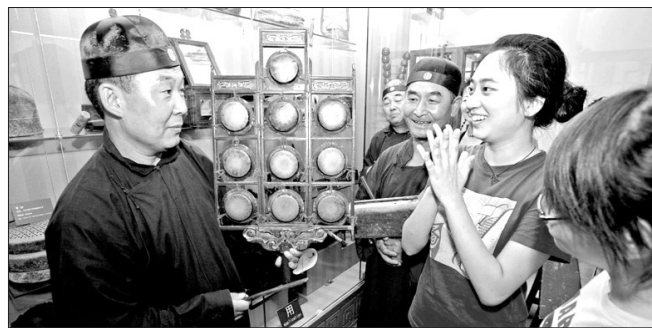
An exhibition hall of old Beijing articles opened in Andingmen Tuesday. Traditional articles like *magua*, the mandarin jacket worn over a gown, *zhan-mao*, felt hat, and *laotoule*, a kind of back scratcher, attracted crowds from home and abroad.

The exhibition hall was decorated to look like a classical Beijing living room, with *gong-tai*, an oblation desk, *taishi*, fauteuil, *baxianzhuo*, the old fashioned square table for eight people, and *kang*, a kind of heated-platform bed.

Both sides of the hall have glass cupboards to display traditional curios.

All the articles are classified into five basic necessities: food, drink, clothing, consumable and shelter. Door frames, kettles and locks would be part of the shelter group.

One room is dedicated to the old-Beijing collector Song Zhenzhong, who has amassed 15,000



Song Zhenzhong, the collector, introduced each item to visitors.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

pieces in fewer than 30 years. The 43-year-old began to collect old Beijing with his mother in 1981. Their collections include dresses and adornments, paper money and coins and nearly all things related to daily life and trade.

However, home space is too limited to store their thousands of articles. Since they have been given a special room to store and exhibit their collection, Song said all the pieces had "arrived home at last."

In the initial stage, only 300 articles were brought to exhibition due to space limitations, but he said he plans to display more in the future.

The exhibition is open for free from 9 am to 5 pm every day, and special narrators will deliver commentaries for visitors.

The exhibition hall also serves as a cultural exchange place during the Games, to display and generalize old Beijing's history and culture.

Bus blasts not linked to Games

By Han Manman

Two people died and 14 were injured when bombs detonated on two public buses in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, Monday morning. But the causes of the fatal explosions are still under investigation, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

With three weeks left before the Olympics, security has become a tense issue.

Started with a bag

Kunming police tripled their reward to 300,000 yuan Wednesday from the previous day's offering for information that would lead to the arrest of Monday's bomber or bombers.

They are calling on the public to identify a tote bag suspected of being the container of one of the bombs, the city's Public Security Bureau said in a statement Wednesday morning.

Police swore to protect the identities of any whistleblowers, and whoever provides critical information can decide how to receive his reward money. The statement did not elaborate on how police narrowed their search to the bag.

On Monday, two people were killed and 14 wounded when two ammonium nitrate bombs, placed under the seats, detonated on two separate buses within 65 minutes of each other. The explosions caused the buses to veer and collide with other cars on the No 54 route.

A 29-year-old woman Wang Dezhi was killed, and 10 others were injured in the first blast. Chen Shifei, 26, was killed in the second attack, which injured four others.

"A short man" got off just before the blast and left behind a black plastic bag, a witness on one of the buses said.

Warned by text

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao condemned the attacks but denied their connection to next month's Olympics.

However, police remain certain that the bombings were deliberate, planned attacks, Du Min, the head of Kunming's Public Security Bureau, told a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

It remains unclear whether or not there were multiple bombers, Du said.



The blast tore through the bus, sending it barrelling into traffic.

CFP Photos



Police suspect one bomb was carried on board in this tote bag.

bus Nos 54, 64 or 84."

Du initially denied the report, but later admitted to reporters that the text message was sent. He said Kunming police cannot confirm if the sender is their suspect, the *Oriental Morning Post* reported.

Security rebounds

After the blasts, Kunming police increased security at airports and highways. Local media said taxi companies reported increased business on Monday when people were afraid to ride the bus. However, business returned to normal by Tuesday morning.

The Kunming government ordered transport officials to tighten security by "increasing patrols and installing new checkpoints to prevent the perpetrators from fleeing" after the powerful blasts, Xinhua reported.

The agency said border guards had tightened security at all exit and entry points in Yunnan, which shares a long border with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

The public as defenders

Officials have been cautious the last few weeks of terrorist plots which would take advantage of the Beijing Olympics. The government made major security increases throughout the country in response.

"[These bombings] reminded us that terrorist attacks can strike very close to home," Bai Yansong, a political commentator, told CCTV after the blasts.

"It's not enough that the state takes strong preventive measures - we ourselves must be more vigilant about prevention," Bai said.

Early this week, the Ministry of Public Security published a Citizen's

Guide to Anti-terrorism, which advises people how to protect themselves from a terrorist attack.

The handbook describes 39 terror scenarios including bombings, arson, gunshots, hijacking, bio-terrorism and provides safety advice for each scenario.

The manual instructs citizens to watch, listen and sniff when attempting to identify explosives, but never to touch. "If the suspicious item smells like rotten eggs, it may be gun powder; if it smells like ammonia, it may be ammonium nitrate," the guide said.

"Compared with hardware such as advanced weapons, public awareness and emergency plans are more important in the fight against terrorism," Wang Dawei, a professor with the Chinese People's Public Security University, said.

7

Debate



Peking Opera goes back to school

Rewards for relinquishing seats



Two kidney transplants rejected by regulations

Need the real thing



Film shoot paralyzes city

Transformer substation breeds controversy

Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



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7

Debate

BEIJING TODAY

Entertainers who offend sovereignty not welcome

(AP) – The government warned foreign performers and entertainers against harming the nation's sovereignty or ethnic unity, weeks before the Olympic Games.

China will strengthen its rules about foreign performers and performers from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, according to a notice on the Ministry of Culture's Web site, including checks on their backgrounds.

"The content of the performance should not violate the national law, including situations that harm the sovereignty of the country," the notice said.

The notice said performances should also not harm "national security, or incite racial hatred and ruin ethnic unity."

Performers should also not promote pornography and super-

stition, it said.

The rules were first introduced in 2005, but the notice acts as a warning and reinforcement during a sensitive time weeks from the opening of the Olympic Games. Agencies that bring foreign performers to China will be banned for two years if they violate the rules, it said.

Musicians in Beijing have gone into hibernation this summer as live performances were stopped in bars, a music festival was canceled and clubs were suddenly told they need a live performance license.

Personal information about individuals in foreign performance groups will be examined, it said, especially groups claiming to represent a country or royal family of a country.

Public voice

By Huang Daohen

Almost 1,700 postings on Web portal Sina.com lent overwhelming support to the government's move, with most applauding it as a "wise" decision.

In March, Icelandic singer Bjork upset a Shanghai concert audience by shouting, "Tibet, declare independence!" at the end of her song. In late May, Hollywood actress Sharon Stone also became a target when she said the May 12 quake was the result of bad

"karma."

"I won't say whether their behavior violated Chinese law or not," Liu Bojun, local resident working for an international firm, said. "However, it did upset many Chinese people."

Under the new rule, Bjork and Stone would become a persona non grata, Liu said.

China still welcome foreign entertainers so long as they obey Chinese law and show respect for tradition, Liu said.

Russia signs border agreement

(PTI) – China and Russia on Tuesday sealed an agreement that finally settled the demarcation of their 4,300 kilometer-long border, ending the decades-long territorial dispute in the latest sign of warming ties between once-bitter rivals.

An additional protocol with a map affiliated on the eastern part of the borders both countries share was signed by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and his visiting Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Xinhua reported.

No specific details were given about the pact signed today, but *China Daily* reported Russia would soon return 174 square kilometers of territory on the northeast border to China, ending four decades of negotiations.

Russia will return Yinlong Island, known as Tarabarov Island in Russian, and half of Heixiazhi Island, Bolshoi Ussuriysky, to China, the Daily reported.

Gov rejects report on Brown aide 'honeytrap'

(Reuters) – The government on Monday denied as fabrication a newspaper report that said a top aide of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was the suspected victim of a "honeytrap" operation by Chinese intelligence.

The *Sunday Times* said on Sunday that the aide had his BlackBerry mobile phone stolen earlier this year while he was accompanying Brown on a trip to China, after taking a woman he met in a disco to his hotel room.

The newspaper cited an unnamed British official as saying the incident had "all the hallmarks of a suspected honeytrap by Chinese intelligence," adding that the incident highlighted the "growing threat" of Chinese intelligence to Britain and the West.

"The related report is a sheer fabrication. We hope that in the future, there will be no more such irresponsible reports," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in a statement on the ministry's Web site.

Golf-China Tour returns to Sichuan

(Reuters) – A China Tour golf tournament in Chengdu, postponed after a devastating earthquake hit Sichuan on May 12, has been rescheduled for early September, organizers said Tuesday.

The Luxehills Championship had been scheduled for early June but was called off after the 7.9-magnitude quake hit the area, killing at least 70,000.

Some of the 130,000 troops and police mobilized in the weeks following the quake began withdrawing from the southwestern province on Monday.

"China as a whole is encouraging people to return to the area and visit," CB Fong, general manager of Luxehills International Country Club, said in a China Tour statement.

The tournament has been rescheduled for September 4-7 as the sixth event of this year's China Tour.

Overseas collectors share Olympic souvenirs

By Li Zhixin

The first group of overseas collectors of Olympic souvenir medals arrived in Beijing Wednesday and takes part in the activity of exchanging the Beijing Olympic souvenir medals with Beijing fans.

The activity was launched at the medals center of the flagship store of the Beijing Olympic Games merchandisers.

During the August Games, four Olympic souvenir medals Centers will be established in the Olympic Cultural Square at World Trade Plaza, the athletes village, Coca-Cola Olympic belt at Chaoyang Park and the 2008 Olympic exposition at Beijing Exhibition Hall.

Xinhua Photo



Optimism grows among urban dwellers

(Wall Street Journal) – Urban Chinese are overwhelmingly happy with their country's economic and political progress – and register higher levels of "national contentment" than those of other nations, according to a large-scale international public-opinion survey by the Pew Research Center.

Thirty years after China's Communist Party freed markets and loosened political controls, 82 percent of the citizens polled by Pew – mainly residents of relatively prosperous cities – say the economic situation is "good," while 86 percent say they are satisfied with the direction the government is taking the country.

On these measures, those surveyed were far happier than citizens of Australia, which ranked second and trailed by double digits in both categories in the Pew Global Attitudes Project. The US ranked 20th out of the 24 countries covered by the surveys this year. Twenty percent of US citizens surveyed ranked their

economy as good, and 23 percent said the government was on the right track.

This high level of Chinese satisfaction is at the heart of a serious perception gap between the way China is viewed abroad and the way it is seen by its own citizens. Many Chinese view their country as more prosperous and freer than at any time in their lives. Many Westerners focus instead on continuing human-rights abuses and social injustice.

Prisci Han, a 26-year-old auto industry analyst who lives in Beijing, says she used to think about leaving China for the West, thinking, among other things, that she might get better medical care. But she has ditched that notion. "The chance of being successful in China is greater than in any other country," she said.

The nation's optimism – unrivaled among the surveyed countries – has come on the back of several consecutive years of double-digit expansion in gross

domestic product, a broad measure of economic growth. Prosperity has lifted millions of its citizens out of poverty and into the middle classes. Though there are signs of a slowdown, the national economy still grew 10.4 percent in the first half of 2008 from a year earlier, against a grim economic outlook for many other countries.

The happiness levels measured by Pew in China this year are the highest seen since the Washington-based foundation started the Global Attitudes Project in 2001. The project aims to measure world-wide public opinion on a wide swath of political, economic and social issues.

Since 1978, the year the government introduced free-market principles, the annual per capita urban household income has leapt nearly 4,000 percent to reach US \$2,019 in 2007. Pew's survey in China found broad support for capitalism, with 70 percent of those polled saying "people are better off in a free-

market economy."

"The vast majority of Chinese say their country is on the right path," the Pew report said. "Most Chinese believe their country's rapidly expanding economy is having an impact around the globe, and they largely see this as a positive development, not only for China itself, but [also for] the rest of the world."

Yet despite their upbeat assessment, citizens do worry. In general, they report lower levels of happiness with their personal lives – with their jobs, family lives and their incomes – than with the national situation, signaling that the government has been effective in driving economic growth but less successful at addressing quality-of-life issues.

With inflation becoming a persistent problem for policy makers, an overwhelming majority of those polled said they are worried about the rising cost of living. They also point to worker conditions, pollution and official corruption as big problems.

Gov disagrees with WTO auto parts ruling, considers appeal

The government said it reserves the right to appeal a World Trade Organization ruling last week that its auto parts import tariff system violates global trade rules.

"China does not fully agree with the content and the conclusion provided by the expert's report group," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement distributed after a news briefing on Tuesday. "According to the WTO dispute resolution procedures, China reserves the right to appeal."

The Geneva-based global trade body ruled on July 19 that the country is breaking international rules by requiring automakers to buy most components from local suppliers or face higher tariffs. The ruling is the first time China has lost a case since it joined the organization in 2001.

The decision was made in response to a complaint raised by the European Union, the US and Canada, after China compelled Ford Motor, Volkswagen AG, Renault SA and

other automakers to use more local components in their mainland products.

Overseas carmakers, including General Motors and Toyota Motor, have invested more than \$20 billion in Asia's biggest auto market.

The ruling "leaves no doubt that China's discriminatory treatment of US auto parts has no place in the WTO system," US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said in a statement following the WTO ruling. The country must change its policy or

appeal the decision. If the WTO upholds the ruling on appeal, China may face retaliatory tariffs on its exports.

The WTO case was filed in March 2006 as the richest nations began ramping up their criticisms of trade policies. US lawmakers accused China of using a combination of subsidies, tax incentives and an undervalued currency to give an unfair advantage to domestic companies, helping to drive up its record trade surplus.

(Agencies)

BOC provides Olympic financial services for foreigners

The Bank of China's (BOC) 95566 hotline will add Korean and Arabic to its foreign-language services before the Olympic Games, an official with the lender said Wednesday.

The hotline can currently provide service in Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Japanese. The new languages are a move by the bank to reflect its role as the sole banking partner of the Games for Olympic financial services.

Yue Yi, the BOC personal banking department general manager, listed more preparations for the Olympics, saying, "The bank has designated 37 outlets for special financial services for all 37 sports venues."

Hotel boom fueled by rise in travel

By Huang Daohen

The hotel industry is expected to experience unprecedented growth due to the dramatic rise in travel and major events such as the Beijing 2008 Olympics and Shanghai 2010 Expo, real estate management firm Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels said Wednesday as it released its latest survey results.

"The hotel industry's underlying fundamentals and future outlook are positive. Vast infrastructure improvements are reducing travel time and increasing mobility within the country," Andreas Flaig, managing director of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels China, said.

The survey said Beijing received 4.4 million foreign tourists and 140 million domestic tourists, a growth of 11.6 percent and 6.1 percent year-on-year.

The average cost of a five-star hotel room had risen for six consecutive years, the survey said. In July, the Beijing Municipal Tourism Bureau listed the average price of a five-star hotel room as 3,263 yuan, 2.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

The Beijing hotel market has as many as 12,000 guest rooms operated with foreign capital - a new record for the city's hotel market.

Because of the low cost and great potential of other Chinese cities, international investors have also been finding opportunities outside of Beijing and Shanghai, the survey said.

Responding to reports that hotel occupancy was on the decline and prices were being cut, Flaig said he is not surprised. "July is traditionally a slow season for hotels, and the move is a way to attract more tourists," he said.

Flaig said high-end hotels are likely to be near capacity during the Olympics while two- to three-star hotels will have last-minute bookings.

"Most four- and five-star hotels are already full, as 70 to 80 percent of their inventory has been pre-sold to the Olympic committee," Flaig said. "Even after the Olympics, Beijing's hotels will perform well."

Shanghai store lets shoppers take home then buy



By Zhang Dongya

The first try-before-you-buy store in the country opened Tuesday in Shanghai. Nearly all of the products are

imported, with the most from Japan. Every customer has to register as a member before trying the samples. Such kind of sample labs are popular in

Japan, but it is still in the exploration stage in domestic market. Figures in the marketing world regarded it as a new method of consumption.

IC Photo

Apple opens first retail store in Sanlitun

By Gan Tian

Apple opened its first retail store in Sanlitun, Chaoyang District last Saturday, attracting thousands of fans overnight.

The Apple Store Sanlitun offers Macs and iPods and delivers services that have become the hallmark of the computer giant's retail stores, including the Genius Bar for free suggestions and technical support, personal buyer, in-store workshops and personal training through its One to One Service.

Every Apple store offers free advice at its Genius Bar, popular in-store workshops and special programs for kids. Customers can also book a free appointment with a Personal Shopper to get expert buying advice or help select the perfect gift for everyone on their list. Customers can test-drive Apple products including the all-new MacBook Air, the world's thinnest notebook, and Apple's line of iPods.

Apple hired local staff members for its Sanlitun Store and they have different titles. These Specialists, Creatives, Geniuses and Concierges share their expertise and offer personalized instructions to shoppers.

"We are thrilled to bring the unique Apple retail experience to China," Ron Johnson, Apple's senior vice president of retail, said. "Our stores are dedicated to enriching people's lives through amazing personalized service, and we think our Beijing customers will love what the Apple Store Sanlitun has to offer."

Apple's more popular services were adopted in the Sanlitun Store without variation. The company said it will also open a store in Qianmen next year.

Nearly 350 million people on four continents have visited Apple retail stores since they opened in May 2001. Apple now operates 219 stores in seven countries including the



Apple opened its first outlet last Saturday.

Photo by Luo Xun

US, UK, Japan, Canada, Italy, Australia and China. After a week in operation in China, the store satisfied most Chinese Apple fans, but it was not without its problems.

Apple's only current retail store is the Sanlitun location, and many customers who lined up could not book services due to staff limitations. Some of the One to One trainers were unfamiliar with the course they were teaching, and the booking system was criticized as needing improvement.

Korea Electric, Datang invest in Wind Power

Korea Electric Power, South Korea's biggest electricity producer, and China Datang will invest in a US \$150 million wind project to expand Asia's fastest-growing energy market.

Korea Electric will take a 40-percent stake and will initially spend \$20 million, the Seoul-based company said in a statement today. China Datang, the parent of Datang International Power Generation, the biggest Chinese electricity producer listed in Hong Kong, will own the rest.

The world's second-largest energy user is turning to alternative energy to ease its reliance on coal, which generates almost 80 percent of the nation's electricity. The country plans to be the world's biggest wind power producer in five years as it seeks to cut pollution, Zhou Xi'an, a director at the National Development and Reform Commission, said in June.

Hyundai Heavy may join Hainan Airlines

South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries has signed a letter of intent to buy a 20-percent stake in Grand China Express Airlines, a regional unit of Hainan Airlines Group (HNA), China Business News reported.

The stake purchase is estimated at 120 million yuan, the report said, citing sources.

Hyundai Heavy Industries is expected to complete due diligence on the transaction in half a month before deciding to proceed with the deal, the report added.

Eastern, Shanghai Airlines say no merger

China Eastern Airlines and Shanghai Airlines said they have not engaged in talks to merge.

"Other than the proposed cooperation with Singapore Airlines, the company has not engaged in any discussion or negotiation with any other airline company regarding any proposed merger," China Eastern said in a statement filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Shanghai Airlines also noted in a separate statement that it is not involved in any merger or restructuring.

(Agencies)

Asking visitors personal questions, not cool

Questions about salaries are out. Likewise, queries about the age of a foreigner visiting Beijing for the Olympics or an inquiry about someone's love life are strictly taboo.

These are some of the "Eight don't asks" displayed on posters in a central Beijing district that give conversational etiquette guidelines to residents when they meet foreigners or disabled athletes during the Olympics.

The advice on Chinese-language posters was put together by the information department of Dongcheng District to educate residents on how to properly welcome visitors during the Olympics, a spokeswoman for the district said.

Dongcheng includes Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. It is also the location of the Beijing Workers' Gymnasium, the boxing venue for the August

8-24 Olympics.

One poster focuses on "etiquette when communicating with foreigners." Locals are instructed not to ask foreigners personal questions about their age, salary, love life, health, income, political views, religious beliefs or personal experience.

"It's normal for Chinese to ask people they just met such questions, but foreigners respond negatively to such personal questions," Beijing municipal government spokeswoman Wang Zhaoqian said Wednesday.

"By educating locals, we hope that they will become more socially sensitive when communicating with visitors," she said.

Another poster gives advice on talking to disabled people. Locals are told not to use phrases such as "It's up there," or "It's over there" when talking to

anyone who is visually impaired, and to avoid phrases such as "It's behind you" to physically impaired athletes.

Instead, locals are recommended to use phrases such as, "You are really great," or "You are wonderful."

In May, Beijing organizers apologized for a training manual issued to thousands of Olympic and Paralympic volunteers following complaints about inappropriate language used to describe disabled athletes.

The posters are part of measures the government has taken to clean up China's image during the Olympics. China's government and the Beijing Olympic organizers have been conducting sweeping campaigns to get citizens to wait patiently in line, stop spitting and improve their driving habits.

(Agencies)

Comment

Ask me anything

It would not offend most people to be asked general questions when engaging in conversation. These are common and normal questions to ask someone whom you are getting to know. A protocol of questions to ask and not to ask is crazy.

People will feel so nervous about asking the wrong thing that they will avoid conversation. They need to find a way to have more faith in their people.

— David Quentin Dauthier, freelancer

Don't mimic the French

I think it is considerate. I don't see what's wrong with

teaching citizens how to be gracious hosts during the Olympics. Have you ever heard of the "Paris syndrome," a label placed on the French because they are infamous for not caring about how they treat tourists?

— Jun Lee, IT practitioner

Take us as we are

We really shouldn't force the government to do anything to improve our welcoming skills. Visitors should get used to the local customs whether good or bad. It will be an impressive experience in China.

— Richard Flaig, counselor

Not that uncommon

Though it may change from

country to country, the posters promoting proper behavior from the public regarding tourists is something that is not odd at all if you live in Europe. We in the US are also taught when we are young not to ask people too many personal questions.

— Jeff Bass, teacher from the US

Pass me a poster, please!

I want one of these posters! I think my Aiya (housekeeper) needs to read it. Perhaps then she will stop asking me how much everything is.

— little poem, netizen from shanghaiist.com

(By Huang Daohen)

Students' streaking sours some

By Zheng Lu

Two fresh graduates from Tsinghua University Academy of Fine Arts streaked through a playground at Tsinghua earlier this month to celebrate their graduation.

Fu Guiyan, one of the graduates who was involved in the streaking incident said their action was intended to promote humanity. He quoted the annual campus tradition of streaking at Harvard University in the US as a precedent to justify their conduct. He said he hoped Tsinghua would be more tolerant and permit students to show their own personality and creativity and claimed it would help make Tsinghua one of the first-rate universities in the world.

During a time when universities are busy recruiting their freshmen, the act of streaking has caused much discussion both amongst the educational circles and on the Internet. Some people treated it with contempt and said that the young men were not worthy of a good education. Other open-minded individuals praised the students and regarded it as a fight against the lack of ambient humanity at Tsinghua.

The students said they wanted to express the liberation of their minds and that was what Tsinghua needed to do as well. A netizen responded sarcastically saying, "Cheers! No clothes, no ties, then our minds will be liberated as well, huh?"

Running naked in public areas remains uncommon. The body is traditionally a private thing. According to the Chinese typical thoughts, people need to hide their bodies well in their clothes instead of wearing the



Fu Guiyan and Qi Xing
Photo from Fu's blog

"emperor's new clothes."

A netizen who defended their actions said, "You noble people can stand there and laugh at them. But their behavior did not endanger society. They should be allowed the freedom of streaking."

Fu explained his "humanity culture" term by stressing that Chinese people were accustomed to observing all the rules and regulations. "We have too many mental barriers placed on us to not break the rules and we lack the courage to challenge ourselves," he said.

However, some Westerners do not agree and criticized them for they did not pay enough respect to people around them.

"I think they are not very considerate, especially in Beijing where the culture is more conservative," Bessie Ng, an assistant editor at a British newspaper, said. Surnamed Ng said alternative choices were available to them to express their ideas, such as painting a naked person instead of parading around as one.

Comment

No nudes is good nudes

Streaking is not an expression of personality. When talking about personality, do not forget the norms of society. The evolution of human civilization makes it clear that we do not dress only to keep warm.

— He Yonghai, commentator

Brave behavior

I think they are brave to do this. Campus is an environment where everyone is free to express their ideas without hurting anyone.

— Jasmine Talos, American student

Don't be a copycat

Please do not trample on our unique virtues by excessively praising characteristics from other cultures. Do you think that turning yourself into a "naked ape" represents human-

ity and personality?

— Chung feng fu guo

Hollow man

I see not only their naked bodies, but also their bare souls.

— Shan Shibing, journalist

The naked truth

They went streaking to celebrate their graduation. It indicated that their hearts are clean and pious. They did not hurt anybody. Only a multivariate and comprehensive society is a mature one.

— Li Yingfeng, editor

A birthday suit buff

To become a world famous university calls for free thinking. We never lack sermons in our country. Everything in our life is started by somebody else. Who approved the bikini when it first came out?

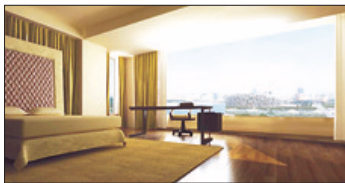
— Netizen



Buy your chick to feed snake

A Changsha zoo in central Hunan Province recently launched a new service to allow visitors to buy live chicks to feed its snakes, arousing controversy amongst the public.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily



From the window, the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube are right before.

Photo provided by Pangu Plaza

Gates rents city's most costly courtyard

By Venus Lee

During the Beijing Olympic Games, the wealthy tycoons and celebrities around the world will pour into the capital and consider the visit as a sort of fashion statement.

They have booked the tickets for the opening ceremony and the matches in which they have interest and chosen their elaborate lodgings.

Where Bill Gates will live has garnered strong interest amongst the media.

Gates has spent 10 million yuan to rent an airy courtyard house for his Beijing Olympics vacation. The dwelling has two floors and covers 700 square meters and is less than 180 meters from the National Aquatics Center, known as The Water Cube.

From this courtyard window, he can take in a complete view of the Olympic Green at a glance with the crystal blue Water Cube and the Bird's Nest right before his eyes.

His courtyard house is in Pangu Plaza and looks like a Chinese dragon at a distance. Sitting on the axis line of Beijing, it is situated on the north side of the city and faces the south.

The "dragon" house consists of five parts: the "head" building is used for business, and there is a private aircraft landing pad on top

of the head. The body parts formed by three identical buildings are apartments, and the tail of the dragon is the only seven-star hotel in Beijing.

However, the courtyard house is only for rent. No one can buy it, not even Bill Gates. He can only lease it annually.

Miss Yi, a staff member from the marketing department of the Pangu Plaza, said they will not provide a short-term rental contract. The lease must be at least one year and the rental fee can be as high as 10 million yuan per year.

Any candidate who applies to rent such a courtyard house has to go through a strict examination by relevant organizations and, if passed, he or she will be allowed only to visit the house and then take the next qualifying steps one by one until he can finally rent the property and move in.

The Pangu Plaza has received many booking orders, and some customers have already taken up residence. However, there are still some available houses near Bill Gates's.

In a recent Chinese media interview, Gates said that he would bring his family to Beijing during the Games, but the details of his arrival are still a mystery.



Pangu Plaza, less than 180 meters from the National Aquatics Center.

Photo provided by Zhang yiqin

Romanian revival

By Zheng Lu

"The Romania of today is not the Romania of 20 years ago," said Ovidiu Silaghi, Minister of Trade and Tourism of Romania, at the opening reception of Romania Culture Week in Beijing.

The week-long activities held by the Romanian National Tourism Office in Beijing include dance and song performances, culinary offerings from Romania's top chef and a fashion show.

It was Silaghi's fourth visit to China and his second appearance this year. He said Chinese tourists are traveling more frequently to Romania. He said that with the coming Olympics in Beijing, China has been the star on the global stage, which gives Romania the rare opportunity to introduce its culture to the world.

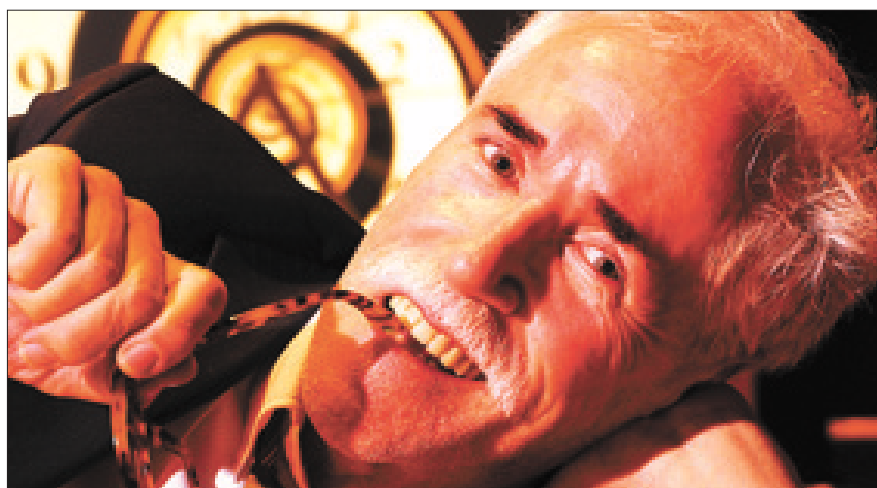
"We hope to erase the antiquated impression that people have of Romania. The activities of Romania Culture Week will let the young Chinese generation discover a modern Romania," Silaghi said.



A work being shown at the Visual Arts Exhibition, one activity of the week.

Photo provided by the Romainan National Tourism Office

International designer debuts with Chinese brand



Hilton McConnico designs a special installation for Chinese brand.

Photo provided by White Collar

By He Jianwei

"Two plus three is nine. That is bad addition in math but perfect form in art," said Hilton McConnico, 65, an internationally-renowned designer and artist who was born in Memphis, Tennessee, but has lived and worked in Paris since 1965.

McConnico first cooperated with a Chinese costume brand White Collar and designed a special installation, Star Destiny, for White Collar's new store and new art space in the Village at Sanlitun, which will open this Saturday night.

Star Destiny is based on a fairy tale about a magical and poetic initiatory voyage. The visitors are carried into an enveloping atmosphere. The story concerns a black star turning into a woman and the gods test her womanly qualities. "The new store, White Collar looks like a falling star, so I created a star as the main character in my story," he said.

It is the first time that White Collar features an art space in its boutique. When the brand invited McConnico to design an installation, he was touched by the Chinese team's enthusiasm and passion. "It is the first time a Chinese brand has linked the fashion to art space," he said.

McConnico made an English logo for White Collar with a Chinese seal character in yellow

colors. "It is the first time that I adopted Chinese elements into my works," he said.

He first made the installation 20 years ago. "I worked as an art director for movies for many years. When I made the work, I thought I was making a movie," he said.

After working in fashion for such designers as Ted Lapidus and Yves St. Laurent, he was a set designer and art director for more than 20 films, including the cult classic "Diva." In 1990 the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art held a retrospective focusing on 30 years of his creations.

His collaboration with Daum crystal began in 1987. Some of his Cactus creations for the manufacturer were presented by former French President Francois Mitterrand to President George H. W. Bush as a gift of state. He was also the first American to have work permanently inducted into the Louvre's Decorative Arts collection.

McConnico continues to be active on the global design scene, especially in architecture and interior design. Recent projects include the Toupary restaurant on the fifth floor of the historic Samaritaine department store and the Hermes Museum in Tokyo, which he conceived for the new Renzo Piano building in the famed Ginza shopping district.

Pianist applauds China

By Gan Tian

Though only 22 years old, Canadian composer and pianist Carlo Aspri has already established a reputation in China. Last Saturday, he held his first piano concert at the Beijing Yamaha Art Center and spotlighted his music and stories.

Aspri played 20 songs which he composed from the age of nine, except one famous Chinese pop song, "The Moon Represents My Heart," which he adapted for piano. Most of his music is soft and light, expressing his love towards his family, friends and nature. However, most of his songs were composed for China.

At the age of 17, he was diagnosed with malignant cancer only two months after the death of his best friend. After that, he underwent two surgeries and intense chemotherapy. The doctor told Aspri that he had little chance to survive, but the young man did not give up. He turned to music and continued to compose melodies throughout that traumatic time.

"I lost 45 pounds during my illness. It was painful," he said. "sometimes I composed sad songs, but there were also some happy songs."

His love and respect for China began during his illness. While ailing, Aspri turned to Chinese medicine and practiced kung fu. In fact, the young man learned kung fu from a very young age. With the help of the music and the traditions of China, Aspri made a full recovery. "I felt freed from prison at that moment," he said.

After he recovered, he visited China and it was love at first sight. "The Chinese way of life is different from the Western one," he said. Then he composed a series of songs dedicated to China. "A Moment of Eternity", was composed four years ago when he first visited China. He was overwhelmed by the beauty, nature and serenity of a park in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province where he experienced an indescribable moment of time standing still. A song born out of that moment, evoked the images of that unique experience.

"Gone, but Not Forever" was written after Aspri's returned to Canada. It is a song about impetus and resolution, particularly those moments that define the greater goals in life. He thought that the Chinese culture was deeply inspirational for his art. He even composed song especially for the Beijing Olympics.

For the young artist, there were always difficulties in his life like his illness and learning Chinese. "But you have to face the challenge," he said, "it makes you grow." Aspri's current plan is to release his album in September. He said he wished his music was as popular as that of Richard Clayderman, Yanni and Kenny G. "I hope my music entertains Chinese audiences," he said.



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A green Pecha Kucha event welcomes all this Sunday

By Annie Wei

Beijing Pecha Kucha is presenting its 6th event this Sunday at China Doll at 4 pm, with a theme of green concerns.

This Sunday, 10 speakers with backgrounds in architecture, photography, critiquing, engineering and journalism will speak on varied topics.

Vance Wanger, 29, from the US, an international policy adviser for the vehicle emission control center of China's environmental protection ministry, said he would talk about air pollution, the impact of vehicles and special actions that government is taking on a national-

level and its long-term sustainable plan to reduce the pollution.

"The case study building I will be presenting, the Pearl River Tower, demonstrates the next stage of the evolution in skyscraper design where the focus is on making the building even more sustainable," Weiwei Luo, from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), a company in sustainable design, said.

"My project does not necessarily pursue the concept of going green, but is rather a critique in retrospect of the green, if not merely green space or green environment, produced in past years," Ling Fan, an architect and critic, said.

Pecha Kucha is a popular lecture style. Its lecture framework is of 20 photos and 20 seconds of introduction each plus 10 speakers per event.

In this way, both attendees and speakers can avoid long lectures and one session can cover many topics at once. After the lectures, people can stay to drink and chat with each other.

Pecha Kucha does not have only one concept or theme. Instead, it aims to provide a platform for people who have interests in finding new ideas, architecture, art, music, fashion, writing, film and photography.

Pecha Kucha was originally started by the Tokyo-based architecture firm Klein Dytham Architects in their nightclub Super Deluxe. After it proved to be a perfect recipe for a good night out as well as a great way for meeting new people, exchanging ideas, finding new employees or jobs, the format was picked up all over the world. As of the end of May, Pecha Kucha is now held in 125 cities worldwide.

Beijing Pecha Kucha has five members, Sebastian Linack, 29, and Andre Schmidt, 35, both German, Salome Chen, 31, Chinese and Florian Pucher, 30, and Miriam Deller 26, both Austrian.

Expat kids learn theater plays



Beijing Playhouse's kid's theater summer camp presented its show Alice in Wonderland last week.

Photo provided by the Playhouse

Danwei holds green plenary next Friday

By Annie Wei

Danwei will present its third plenary session on August 1 at The Orange in The Village at Sanlitun.

Jason Marriott, chief foreign design architect for the Olympic Village, will have a short discussion with the audience about green architecture, especially which buildings in Beijing are really built to save energy and do minimum damage to the environment.

Several guest speakers have confirmed their attendance.

Invited guests, who will be encouraged to ask tough questions, include Chinese and foreign journalists and academics from environmental research areas.

Where: The Orange at The Village at Sanlitun

When: August 1, 7 pm

Cost: 100 yuan at the door, register at info@danwei.org; 150 yuan at the door

Samba sizzles in the city

By Venus Lee

SambAsia Beijing will hold a samba performance at the Starlive Pub this Saturday, sponsored by Brazilian ambassador to China.

SambAsia Beijing will take local samba fans to experience passionate, original samba direct from Rio de Janeiro. Attendees can enjoy the dance and use the event as an outlet for releasing pent up energy this hot summer.

Leon Lee, the co-founder of SambAsia Beijing said, after it's founding in 2006, the organization staged many performances.

This time, they have invited the famous samba dance master Renata Secco to give fans an eye-dazzling performance. This is her second time to visit Beijing.

SambAsia Beijing will provide the accompaniment for the artist and the SambAsia Dancers in a full-scale samba stage show.

There will be an explosive percussion performance as well.

SambAsia Beijing is a com-



One of SambAsia Beijing's performances Photo provided by Leon Lee

munity-based organization that offers educational programs and special Brazilian percussion performances.

The original ensemble was formed in San Francisco, US in September of 2002. It was founded by Jimmy Biala with the idea to build cultural bridges between the diverse communities of the San Francisco Bay Area.

This was accomplished by combining Brazilian drums with Asian music and dance traditions from.

Where: the 3rd floor of Starlive, on 79, Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng district.

When: 8 pm, August 26

Admission: students, 40 yuan, members, 50 yuan and the public, 60 yuan

Event

Talk: Olympics and Urban Change

Jeroen de Kloet will give a talk about the promotion of Beijing as an Olympic city and how these urban changes are negotiated by artists. Jeroen de Kloet is assistant professor of Media studies at the University of Amsterdam and works on the cultural implications of globalization in China. His current research project focuses on the Beijing Olympiad and is titled "Celebrations and Contestations of Chineseness - The Beijing 2008 Olympics and 21st Century Imaginations of Place, Culture and Identity."

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 30, 7:30-9 pm

Cost: 50 yuan, includes green tea or flower tea, cookies and snacks

Tel: 6432 9341

Booktalk: The Last Days of Old Beijing

Long term Beijing resident and journalist Mike Meyer lived in a hutong in Dashilan for two years to experience hutong life something he said is in decline as an insider. Receiving glorious reviews from fellow China watchers, journalists and the publishing world in general, his fascinating insights are a must-read.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 5, 7:30pm

Cost: 50 yuan, includes a drink

Tel: 6586 9507

Free improvisation alliance concert

This new concept concert, initiated and organized by saxophonist Li Tieqiao freshly returned from Norway, merges people of different backgrounds and nationalities: FM3's Zhang Jian on computer, Xiaohe on vocals and guitar, Liang He Ping on keyboards, Justin on drums, Gogojie on multimedia art.

Where: Yugongyishan, Zhangzizhong Lu 3-2, west courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, Dongcheng District

When: July 30, 9 pm

Cost: 30 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Bike travel to Huanghuacheng Great Wall

Pekingbike provides professional bikes and outfit rentals. Huanghuacheng Great Wall is located 70 kilometers northwest of downtown Beijing. It is a unique tourist destination famous for its natural beauty and man-made marvels.

When: July 26-27

Cost: 400 yuan per person for two days, price includes bike tour guide, travel insurance, all meals eaten as a group, one night accommodation at a farmer's house and sport drinks.

Tel: 1500140324

(By He Jianwei)

Olympic tickets on sale today

By Annie Wei

The fourth phase for Olympic tickets sales starts today, with 820,000 tickets going on sale.

Among them, 250,000 are for the sports events in Beijing, while the rest are for football competitions in Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Qinghuangdao.

Tickets start selling from 9 am to 6 pm everyday at all Olympic venues. Spectators can purchase the tickets by cash or visa cards.

To make sure more people have the chance to watch their favorite games, each person is limited to buying at most two tickets per purchase, but they can buy more than once, Zhu Yan, the ticketing director, said.

Zhu said there is a plan for ticket numbers each day at different venues as well.

Tickets are only open to individuals, not to group-bookings.

Due to different venues or ticket booths selling different tickets, the Beijing Olympics Committee suggests checking more ticketing information at tickets.beijing2008.cn before heading to the venues.

The official ticketing Web sites only provide ticket information and do not sell tickets. Bank of China also no longer provides



Xu, on the left, is excited to be the first buyer after waiting in line since Wednesday. The last group of Olympic tickets start selling to the public today. CFP Photo

a ticketing service.

Information on tickets for events held in Qingdao and Hong Kong has not been released yet.

Ticket booths:

A booth at the Olympic center, located at the southeast corner of subway line 8 and 10 exchange station, sells tickets to five venues including the National Stadium and the Water

Cube while other venues only sell tickets for events held at their specific location.

Refund policy

The committee said that returning tickets or asking for refunds for personal reasons is not acceptable. If a competition is cancelled and will not be rescheduled, ticket-holders can ask for a refund within three months after

the event. However, no refund procedure is carried out during the game.

Tickets for special seats

To book seats for the disabled and their company, please call 8418 1461.

Receipts

Ticket buyers can ask for receipts when purchasing tickets at booths.

Commuting made easy for the Games

By Jackie Zhang

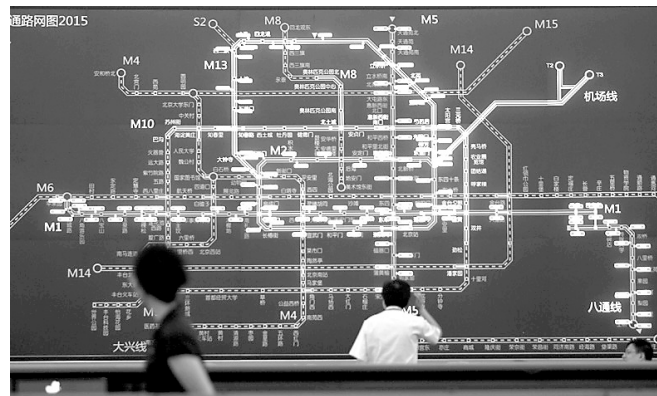
Because of the "even and odd-numbered license plate" rule for cars and special roadways for Olympic cars, more measures to provide commute services in the city began last weekend.

Launch of Dongzhimen traffic hub

Dongzhimen Traffic hub is the first type in Beijing for both public traffic and subway transfers. Last Saturday, it began operation after three-years on the drawing board. The hub is at the northeast corner of Dongzhimen Bridge.

At present, the public transportation transfer area is on the first floor and the subway transfer hall underground has been opened for service. People can transfer between subway Line 2, Line 13 and the Airport Expressway. Five bus lines including 106, 107, 123, 401 and 404 can be transferred on the first floor area.

This Sunday and next Thurs-



More subways have been built in Beijing to improve commute options. Photo by Li Muiyi

day, 11 more bus lines will enter the hinge, including eight long-journey buses as Dongzhimen is an important point for people who take long-journey bus trips to suburban areas like Miyun, Huairou, Pinggu and Shunyi.

Olympic bus lines

Ten Olympic bus lines were

launched last Sunday, seven of which operate 24 hours. These lines will be closed on the opening day of the Games.

The Olympic bus lines allow people to get to all the venues. On August 9, another 24 lines will be added. The driving speed of these 24 lines will be faster

than the first 10 lines, and will start service three hours before competitions. The last bus will leave the venue one and half hours after the competitions. The ticket price for all the lines is one yuan, except for the line one to Shunyi District.

Airport Expressway

The Airport Expressway was open last Saturday. The line starts at Dongzhimen. It takes you only 20 minutes to get to Terminal 3 at the Beijing International Airport. The ticket price is 25 yuan. The first train leaves Dongzhimen at 6 am and the last train at 10:30 pm daily.

Buying tickets from automatic vending machines, people are only allowed to use 5- and 10-yuan notes. There are staff members selling tickets as well.

Passengers are allowed to take two pieces of baggage, but the weight must be under 30 kilograms.

Foreign newspapers available soon

By Zhang Dongya

As many as a hundred foreign newspapers and magazines will be accessible in town during the Olympic Games.

A total of eight kiosks were set up in the Olympic venues to offer overseas publications, with one in the Olympic Village three in the Media Village, and the other three in the Main Press Centre (MPC), International Broadcast Center (IBC), and Qingdao Olympic Sailing Athlete Center.

In addition, another 70 hotels

related to the Olympics and the Capital International Airport set up newspaper kiosks supplied with foreign publications.

Besides the nearly 40 domestic newspapers and magazines, publications from the US, Germany, France and Japan as well as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Telegraph*, *South China Morning Post* and *The Times* will be available. It is the first time that the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Sports Illustrated* have come to China.

Hundreds of foreign books will also be provided at the bookstands.

Whether *Playboy* Magazine will make an appearance remains uncertain.

China National Publications Import & Export Corporation (CNPIEC) will manage the introduction and selling of foreign newspapers and magazines during the Games. General Manager Jiao Guoying said they would ensure the most current newspapers and magazines are available.

The price of all the overseas

publications will be higher than that in their native countries due to the transportation costs and customs charges. Although some of the prices are fixed, including the *South China Morning Post* for 10 yuan, the *Wall Street Journal* for 25 yuan and the *Stern Magazine* from Germany at 98 yuan.

They will all be printed in their respective countries and imported from abroad.

According to the plan, all the kiosks selling foreign press issues will operate 15 hours daily until September 24.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I want to make some authentic corn bread but need to find the ingredients. I had no success at Jenny Lou's. Can you help me?

Jenny Lou's and the other international grocers are not your best choice for these types of ingredients. Go to the bulk rice and grains section of any local grocery store or wet market. Cornmeal is cheap in China and available every day, just not in a pre-packaged form.

A friend of mine bought a Chinese MP3 Player, Meizu, which turned out to be quite good. He bought it last year and I'm wondering about new products. Do you have any recommendations?

The Meizu products are pretty solid and the company has a virtual clone of the iPod. As for other brands, fiddle around with them and decide if you think the buttons will last more than a few months and whether the case is durable. Most of them do not vary much in quality, so it ultimately comes down to features and construction. Aigo is another good brand.

I have been in Beijing for two years and I am interested in Chinese culture. I am looking to research it in Chinese. Can you recommend some Chinese novels?

Check out *My Country and My People* (Wu Guo Wu Min) by Lin Yutang. The book digs deep into Chinese culture and society. It was originally written in English in the 1930s and then translated into Chinese. It may not be a very easy read, but it is worth a try. It is not really a novel so you will need some patience. A lighter option is *The Good Earth* (Da Di) by Pearl S. Buck. The author had a great understanding of the Chinese mentality and the story is well written and easy to follow. Pick up *Fortress Besieged* (Wei Cheng) by Qian Zhongshu.

I am only in Beijing for the next month and a half but I could really do with a bicycle to get around town. Do you know where I can buy a second-hand bike in Beijing?

University students have just finished their semester, so look at campus notice boards and try to find some one who is selling his bike. You can go to Dongjiao market also. It is 200 meters north of SOHO new town. You can also ask people who repair bicycles if they have any second-hand bikes for sale. There are always the bike renting stations if all else fails.

(By Bai Jingnan)

For many who will arrive over the next few months, the Olympics is not their only destination. It is this capital city that they are curious to explore and collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guide includes current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to the sites of interest too new for your guidebook. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.

Outdoors

Intelligence Valley

Locals around the valley believe ascending Intelligent Valley can make climbers more intelligent and walking back down gives the opposite effect. The route of this trip adheres to the old saying and continues out of the valley to finish at Shengtanyu Park. A clear stream runs through the valley and is home to small aquatic life.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, July 26

Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

Gubeikou to Jingshanling

This trip goes as far as the northeast of Beijing Municipality. Gubeikou is a seldom-visited section of the Great Wall, passing into Hebei Province and ending at the Jinshanling Great Wall. This hike is challenging and suitable for experienced hikers.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8 am – 6 pm, July 26

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

Huitengxile Inner Mongolia Grassland

The Huitengxile grassland is unspoiled and attracts tourists. Mushroom-like yurts, bright sky, fresh air, rolling grass and the flocks and herds moving like white clouds across the remote Grassland will give you a quiet and relaxing feeling you will never forget.

When: Fly to Hohhot on July 26 and fly back on July 27

Cost: 2,550 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Royal Canal Boat Tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and the daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet at China Culture Center, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9 am – 3:30 pm, July 26

Cost: 400 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (reservations are essential)

Cock Crow Post Town and Tianmo Desert

Cock Crow Post Town is the largest post town of its kind in China, and the only surviving example of its era.

Tianmo Desert is the closest desert to Beijing.

Where: meet at China Culture Center, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8:30 am – 6 pm, July 26

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (reservations are essential)

Sightseeing in Tibet: Lhasa, Gyantse, Shigatse

This trip explores the Tibetan culture and amazing highland scenery. It starts in Lhasa, the holy capital of Tibet, where you will see monasteries, temples and the local Tibetan's daily life. The trip will also make its way to Gyantse and Shigatse to visit the famed Gyantse Castle, Yamdrok Lake, Karola Glacier and Tashilhunpo Monastery.

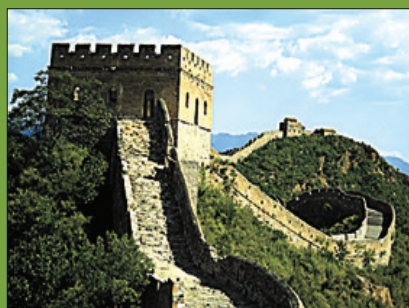
When: Fly to Lhasa on August 1 and take train back to Beijing on August 8

Cost: 11,690-12,800 yuan

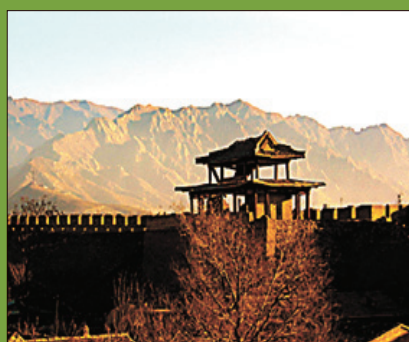
Tel: 8621 6278 (reservations are essential)



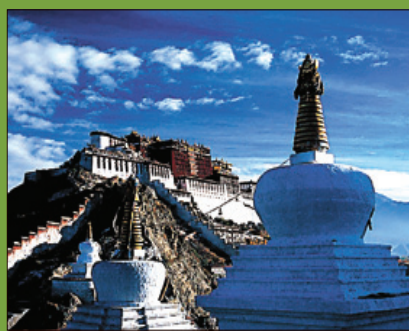
Intelligence Valley



Gubeikou



Cock Crow Post Town



Lhasa



Huitengxile Inner Mongolia Grassland



Happiness, 1993, by Yue Minjun

Exhibition Epitome of Chinese contemporary art

By He Jiamwei

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) opened its new exhibition Our Future: The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation Collection last Thursday afternoon. The exhibition gives a wide-angle view of the work and artistic practice of several generations of artists in Chinese contemporary art.

The exhibition tells the story of Guy and Myriam Ullens' long-term commitment to Chinese artists and their work. The UCCA aims to put China at the heart of its activities by developing an open platform for dialogue between China and the rest of the world. Featuring as many as 60 Chinese artists, the exhibition will present no less than 100 works.

The selection from the Ullens Foundation collection is presented in China for the first time as part of the exhibition. UCCA introduces sculptures, paintings, videos, photography, sound and installations from the collection, as well as new acquisitions and specific site commissions. The selection presented in the exhibition includes groundbreaking works that explore how these artists are developing critical responses to the coexistence of many diverse experiences in China such as the small gestures that are significant in daily life, or the mass media's blurring of reality, fantasy, expectations and history, as well as the urban construction and destruction cycles.

The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation collection is one of the largest and most significant holdings of contemporary Chinese art in the world. Developed by Guy and Myriam Ullens over a period of 20 years, the collection represents several generations of artists at different

stages of their development, providing insight into the artists' shifting social and philosophical perspectives.

In this way the building of the temporary art scene in China. Guy and Myriam Ullens have actively supported the practice of a wide range of artists, often before they were known to a wider international audience.

"When I started doing business in China, pleasure came from spending time with the artists' community. The best thing was to have artists on picnics just outside of Beijing. One of our favorite places was a garden where a concierge would give us the key to the garden and hang out discussing art and listening to music on Sundays. These are the happiest moments of my life at any time," Ullens said.

Our Future: The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation Collection

Where: UCCA, 798 Art District, 4th Floor, Chaoyang District

When: until October 12

Tel: 8610 8706

Centers and Borders: From ABC to XYZ

As the world becomes smaller, we begin to realize that there are many "centers." "Centers and Borders" should be viewed from a perspective of positioning nations as equals in an encounter. A group of artists from the Americas, including the US and Mexico, join a group of Chinese artists to visually address "centers and borders" in this exhibition.

Where: XYZ Gallery, D06-6-1, 2nd Floor, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until Oct 12

Admission: Free

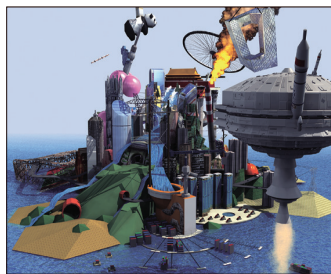
Tel: 8459 9299

The Limit of Logic

This exhibition gives a brief analysis of the concept and idea of contemporary art.



1996-10, 1996, by Fang Lijun



United Nations: Silk Road, 2000, by Gu Wenda



RMB City: Second Life Project, 2008, by Cao Fei



Game Table, 1996-1997, by Chen Zhen

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Where: Genssun International Art Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10 am – 6 pm, until August 18
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9882

Spade

All the artists in this exhibition happen to be female artists born during the 1980s. Spade sparked questions like does Spade deliberately showcase feminism, is it inherently feminist, and does it celebrate those born during the 1980s? Spade will lead a discussion addressing these questions.

Where: T Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6 pm, until August 16
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 1529

Beyond Reminiscence

The exhibition, featuring twelve leading Chinese contemporary artists, strives to shun all superficial limits, whether in iconology, technique, medium or in so-called concept. Beyond Reminiscence reflects upon fundamental questions of art and strives to explore the junction and similarity between China's traditional and contemporary creation.

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts at Legation Quarter, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Chongwen
When: Daily 10 am – 10 pm, until September 28
Admission: Free
Tel: 6559 8008

Wake and Realize

Where: 3+3 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until September 12
Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 9942

Towards the Post-Abstract

Where: PIFO New Art Studios, B-07 Beijing International Art Camp, Suojiacun, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until August 7
Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 1792
YUAN Shun"o"

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until August 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3245

Luo Brothers

Where: Cheng Xindong Space for Contemporary Art 1, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until September 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 4579

Artists @ 798 - Joint Exhibition

Where: Red Gate Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until July 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

Notes of Conception: A local narrative of Chinese contemporary painting

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until August 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6543 2086

Blue Space - Sculpture Exhibition

The exhibition takes "Green, our friend" as the theme. 100 pieces of works are chosen to exhibit from 400 possibles, which are made of wastes.

Where: Binhe Century Square, Mentougou

When: until October 10

Admission: Free

China Sexy

Where: 7 Beijing Yixiang Art Center, 798 Art District, Chaoyang District

When: 10 am – 5 pm, until July 31

Admission: free

Folk Activities

Patchwork Pictures

Traditional Buduihua (patchwork picture) is made of rags with different colors cut, pasted and embroidered into exquisite patterns. It is most popular in the provinces north of Shaanxi.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 1-5 pm, July 27

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Ink & Wash Painting Class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian style of brush painting. It is also known as wash.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30-9:30 pm, July 28

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and conducted in English, covering everything from meaning and evolution of the characters and culture to history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10-11:30 am, July 29

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)



Patchwork picture

Book The history of 798, the possibility of art

By He Jianwei

If the reader would like to know about urban space in Beijing, nothing is more typical nor dramatic than 798 Art District. A new bilingual book about 798 was released last Tuesday at 798 Art District.

Beijing 798: Reflections on Factory of Art (edited by Huang Rui, 402pp, Sichuan Publishing Group, Sichuan Fine Arts Publishing House, 238 yuan) was designed to be read from the front in English and from the back in Chinese, which is a study in contrast – one location and two milieus over 50 years.

Reflecting on art, architecture and society, the images and texts in this book offer a microcosm of the radical social and cultural changes that have swept through Beijing over the last 50 years. An East German-designed military factory turned contemporary art and culture center, Beijing 798 is captured in 200 vintage black and white images of the industrial space in

the 1950s, and also through an equal number of color photographs of a radically different 50 years later up to the present.

It was just 50 years ago that the 718 United Factory of Electronic Parts, prior to 798, launched its creative production line, a co-operation between China and East Germany. The black and white section of the book retraces this era.

In 2002, artists started to move into the almost abandoned spaces of the factory. Later transformation and success made the district prosper quickly and 798 became defined as an art space under government plans, a new symbol of Beijing's Olympic era.

Today, 798 continues to create history. The color section of the book follows the early days of 798 as an art district. The art "Factory" of the new 798 has enriched the city's with more color and contributed to its cultural memories.

This book bears witness to the birth and coming of China's new society without losing sight of its past. This unique compilation also brings together texts by top writers in the field of art, architecture and society, as well as two architectural visions for Beijing 798 as seen by the Southern California Institute of Architecture and the School of Architecture within the China Central Academy of Fine Arts.



Continued on page 14 ...

... continued from page 13

Stage

Concert

Children's Concert

by Li Biao Percussion Group
Who: Li Biao Percussion Group

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 26
Admission: 10-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Symphonic Poem

Olympic Sailing Suite

Who: Qingdao Symphony Orchestra

Where: Century Theatre, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, July 27
Admission: 80-500 yuan
Tel: 6465 6904

Bohemian Rhapsody – Brass Concert of World's Famous Pieces

Who: Beijing Children's Palace Brass Ensemble

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 2 pm, July 27
Admission: 10-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Radetsky March – World Classics

Who: CAPF Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 28
Admission: 20-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

The Snowman

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 30
Admission: 10-100 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Wu Ying Family Piano Concert

Who: Wu Ying, Shao Dan, Wu Peixi

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 30
Admission: 10-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Concert by Seville Royal Symphony Orchestra

Who: Seville Royal Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 26
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Spirited Saint Hunan

Who: Chinese and Japanese Young Musicians

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 28
Admission: 80-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Concert by Kunming Symphony Orchestra

Who: Kunming Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 29
Admission: 50-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Sino-Foreign Cooperative Opera Tea – The Heart's Mirror

Who: Composed by Tan Dun

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of

the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 30-31
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Night of Mozart - Symphony Concert for Mozart Classics

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 1
Admission: 20-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Concert by Liu Yang and Young Artists

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 4
Admission: 10-100 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

My Heart Will Go On – Symphony Concert for Film Music

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 5
Admission: 20-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Large-scale Chinese Music

Concert – Ariose Years

Who: China National Opera and Dance Drama Company

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian

When: 7:30 pm, August 5-7
Admission: 50-580 yuan
Tel: 6254 6839

Erhu Concert by Master

Song Fei and Her Students

Who: Song Fei and her students

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 6
Admission: 20-100 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Medea Two

by Omada Dance Company
Who: Omada Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, August 1-2
Admission: 100-1,000 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

The Masters of Voices – Assemble under the Five-ring Flag

Who: Jose Carrera, Kiri Te Kanawa, Olga Borodina, Dai Yuqiang and Liao Changyong

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, August 4-5
Admission: 480-3,280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Peony Pavilion

Who: Battlefront Culture Troupe of the Political Department of Nanjing Military Area of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and Beijing Dadu Yangguang Troupe

Where: China Grand Theater, 16 West Third Ring Bei Lu

When: 7:30 pm, July 26-27
Admission: 120-1,000 yuan
Tel: 6843 0560

Night of Africa

Who: Designed by Li Yayuan

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 28-29
Admission: 60-880 yuan
Tel: 5165 6039



Sailfish



Chok Dee



Wings

Movie

Sailfish
Director Ema Jin Yimeng's first feature-length film featuring a heartfelt tale of a swimmer fighting for glory and a girl. The film explores how politics and sports intertwined during the turbulent years of the Culture Revolution.

Sailfish tells a story of Haiyang who dreams of winning the national championship and how that goal is placed in jeopardy by events beyond his control.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie, Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Xicheng

When: 8 pm
Admission: 20-40 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Chok Dee

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, July 26-27
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

The Battle of Algiers

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, August 30
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Where: Lanyang Bookstore, 3 Shuimo Xinqu, Haidian

When: 7:30 pm, July 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 6265 5069

Wings
Where: Minty Bar, 26 Maoer Hutong, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm, July 28
Admission: Free
Tel: 13810222787

Matrix
Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng

When: 8 pm, July 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 6617 3231

An Unreasonable Man
Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: 7 pm, July 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 8855 0622

Les Randonneurs a Saint-Tropez
Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, August 30
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife

SambAsia Beijing in Concert

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm, July 26
Admission: 40-60 yuan
Tel: 5123 3866

Morse

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: 11 pm – 4 am (next day), August 1
Cost: 30 yuan
Tel: 13321123678

Sixth Anniversary Party
Where: Club Suzie Wong, West Gate of Chaoyang Park, A1 Nongzhanguan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9 pm – 4 am (next day), July 26
Tel: 6538 2349

(By Li jing)

Modern malls in the ancient city

By Gan Tian

You see Gucci, LV or Prada in many shopping malls in many cities all over the world. You may not want to buy anything in these shopping malls, but they certainly give off that "metropolitan feel." When you get to the capital city, you will see that Beijing is really an international city. This week Beijing Today will guide you through the popular new shopping malls.



The new Solana at Chaoyang Park

By Annie Wei

Even before this new shopping center opened, it already acquired a good name. Solana combines as many kinds of retail and entertainment businesses as possible to in a one-stop service.

Solana plans to introduce over 200 brands, including a five-floor theater-like skating mall run by the Li Ning, an eight-hall theater, Banyan Tree hotel, Croba, Todai buffet and a series of retail brands. For fashion and apparel, there are Zara, Guess and Promod Sephora and, Stefanel for cosmetic products and Nike and Adidas for leading athletic products.

The retail part of Solana has four parts: brand street, Solana Mall, vivid-themed stores and Meridian department store.

Brand street is in the south part of Solana, along the lake-side of Chaoyang Park with two delicate two-floor buildings. The developer tried to create the feeling of walking down a street in Italy, with individual jewelry stores, art galleries, hair-salons and coffee shops.

It's a shame that not all the vendors have moved in yet. As the center just opened to public, there are only a few stores and scattered visitors. Hopefully, it will attract more interesting and creative stores, along with modern Beijing shop-

pers in the future.

There is not much of interest to see at the moment at the Solana Mall and Meridian department store since many stores have not opened yet, but this reporter did find some pretty good deals. For example, the Mother Care brand, which provides pregnant women and new parents with imported mum and baby products, and Sixth-Sight, a lingerie brand with reasonable prices. In the store Sixth-Sight, the bras sell from 68 to 100 yuan, a lovely navy blue tank top is 100 yuan and a long black cotton dress is around 200 yuan. Also, Promod is having special with 30 to 70 percent off summer products. Shoppers can get a seasonal dress from 199 to 299 yuan.

The good thing about Solana is that it is "family-friendly" and perfect for weekend shopping sprees. Many families frequent the outside area and enjoy a cold drink from Starbucks or a creamy treat from the ice-cream shop. Children can even roller skate anywhere, even inside the mall.

It is rumored that more stores will move in soon, including nice restaurants, sports centers and digital products stores. Also, the property management stage some interesting events like outdoor concerts for the public.

Solana

6 Chaoyanggongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Xinzhongguan best on the block

By Gan Tian

Zhongguancun, the technology hub in Haidian District, is also known as "the Silicon Valley of China." However, after Xinzhongguan Shopping Center was launched, this cold and grey digital area was injected with more color and fashion.

Xinzhongguan has adopted a unique concept – block shopping, which mirrors internationally-famous streets like Fifth Avenue, Oxford Street or Avenue des Champs Elysees in Paris. Customers will find a variety of product on these streets. It is said that every visitor will find exactly what he or she wants here, and everyone can do whatever he or she likes which includes shopping, buying, cafe hopping or reading. If any street can perfectly represent a city's image, Xinzhongguan is it.

There are seven streets here equipped with different functions. Street One is the big one for the first line in world fashion like Miss Sixty, Morgan, Mango, FCUK, i.t. and Lacoste. Street Two is much more suitable for those original-thinking young people featuring brands like G-star, Tough Jeans, only, Vero Moda and Esprit. If you are a sports fan, come to Street Three to shop for Adidas, Nike and Lee.

More than just shopping, customers even can learn English at EF on Street Four. Street-walkers can enjoy a spa or go to a gym on Street Five. On the lower level of Street One, cinemas operate all day long, and Street Two's lower level is jewelry central. They can even design a necklace or a pair of shoes for customers here.

People are starting to grow weary of only shopping in malls. Xinzhongguan has its way of combining all the customers needs into one block, and does so in block form: B for Business, L for Lifestyle, O for Open-minded, C for Convenient and K for Kind. No other words can better describe Xinzhongguan more vividly than that.

Xinzhongguan Shopping Center

Where: 19 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

Other malls

Xinzhongguan Shopping Center

19 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

New Yansha Mall

1 Yuanda Road, Haidian District

Joy City

131 Xidan North Street, Xicheng District

Ginza Mall

48 Dongzhimen Waidajie, Exit C, Dongzhimen Station, Metro Line 2

China World Shopping Mall

1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Twins Mall

Yi 12 Jianwai Street, Chaoyang District

Jianwai Soho

No 39, East 3rd Ring Road, Chaoyang District

The Place

Jia 9 Guanghualu, Chaoyang District

* All shopping malls open from 10 am to 10 pm

(By Zhen Lu)



Photos by Issac Feng

Look up at THE PLACE

By Zhang Dongya

THE PLACE, Shimao Tianjie, is a new shopping street located in the CBD of Chaoyang District. It is to the west of the International Trade Center (ITC) and near Fortune Palace, Digital Tower, and several other office buildings with fancy names.

To attract shoppers, THE PLACE is themed as "Everyone in Beijing Looks Up." A huge LED screen was constructed as the main attraction, covering the entire street between two new five-story, high-end retail centers and two 23-story office towers. The screen's viewing surface, adorned entirely with LED modules, makes the square-footage a close second to the Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas, the largest single screen in the world.

The display will be turned on from 8 to 10 nightly, showing beautiful and fantastic images of undersea life, alien cultures and natural landscapes, and advertisements, of course. It is really breath-taking when you see a whale waving its tail over your head and swimming forward to disappear into the night at the far end of the LED Screen.

At present, THE PLACE carries many of the major brand names and most popular items. Fashion enthusiasts may note that Spanish fashion chain Zara has a two-floor store in the mall. Shoe lovers will also delight in the knowledge that Cana-

dian shoe retailer Aldo's flagship store is located here. Sleek lamps, dining ware and other home decor are available at Potato. French label Promod and SJSJ from Korea opened their first Beijing stores in THE PLACE. Italian labels like MISS SIXTY and ENERGIE launched their flagship Beijing stores here. The mall is also home to internationally-renowned brands such as the Adidas Sports Heritage Shop, MAC makeup, Jessica, and the Swiss Perfumery Shop.

In addition, Chaterhouse, a decent English language bookstore and the first one in Beijing set up by a foreign book trader, is accessible at THE PLACE. It has a good reputation for a good stock of newer books as well as helpful and friendly staff.

The PLACE

Where: 9, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District



CFP Photo

Continued on page 16 ...

... continued from page 15



CFP Photo

Shin Kong Place for serious shoppers

By Lily Li

Shopping in Beijing is an interesting experience. The almost laughably overpriced goods displayed at the historical Friendship Store are perfect for some starry-eyed holidaymakers who come to look but not to buy. And the seemingly genuine yet well-known fake brands piled high at the touristy Silk Market are made for the skillful bargainers. If neither window-shopping nor exhaustive bargaining is your thing and you feel like doing some serious shopping, Shin Kong Place is the spot for you.

Opened last April, Shin Kong Place is one of the biggest shopping malls in Beijing.

Shin Kong Place distinguishes itself from the others not only by its sheer size but also by the quality of stores within. Having successfully attracted 983 international class brands, including Chanel, Marc Jacobs, Prada, Gucci, Coach, Dior, LV and Bally, to name a few, Shin Kong Place has become the leader of Beijing's luxury shopping malls.

Walking into the mall is like stepping into a dazzling Hong Kong shopping mall. Here are a few tips from *Beijing Today* that can help you navigate the place.

Luxuries. Shin Kong Place tops the list when it comes to luxurious goods. Most of the luxuries are located on the 1st and the 2nd floor. Gucci's flagship store shines for all the international brands.

Cosmetics. Just like the other malls, the cosmetics department is located right at the entrance. But at the left corner of the 1st floor, you will find a Skincare Salon. Every now and then, skincare lessons and simple practice activities are held here, usually with 40 to 50 customers invited. It is a good place for beauty-loving girls to exchange ideas.

Special Stores: BHG Market Place, an international supermarket stock is located on B1. Its shelves over 20,000 products from all over the world. French food store Fauchon has opened its first China store here, occupying three floors from B1 to the 2nd floor. "Sporty Elegance" on the 4th floor is a golf store which sells everything from golf wear to golf equipment. The Panasonic Center on the 5th floor is more of an information exchange platform than a product selling store.

Displays: On the 1st floor, there is a fantasy shoe area, where women's shoes are nicely displayed with lights. And an "Intimates Salon" is to the left hand side of the 2nd floor, where women's underwear is romantically presented. Walking inside these areas is like entering a feminine fairyland. Sofas and changing rooms are provided.

Services: Information counters on every floor offer currency exchange, refunds and returns, free baby carts and wheel chair services. On the 5th floor, you will find a huge event venue, the expansive Shin Kong Cultural Hall. Chinese and international art exhibitions and fashion shows are regularly held here. Besides a first class nursing room, providing milk powder, hot water, diapers and baby beds, a children's playground can also be found on the same floor, providing some relief for parents. A waiting room is located on B2, where free water is available. You can charge your cell phone, watch TV, read newspapers and magazines here while waiting for your girlfriend or wife.

Shin Kong Place

87 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang District



Photos by Issac Feng

Joy of the city

By Gan Tian

Joy City opened at the beginning of this year and gives Xidan a younger look. The 13-story mall has the world's longest escalator and the largest digital cinema in China with 13 screens and the largest open cosmetic shop in town.

The scene is impressive. The mall has red cloth strips hanging from the top of the 13th floor. At the end of the strips are red couches and chairs in which customers can rest. "It almost feels like you are going hiking up a mountain as the escalators carry you higher and higher until you reach the massive cinemas at the summit!"

Beorn, a netizen commented online.

Zara, the Spanish fashion line, opened its second shop there, and so has the music store FAB. Some of the young people's favorite trendy brands have also opened their first stores at Joy City. For example, there is Hong Kong fashion brand Uniqlo, Next, Motivi and Honeys.

On the fourth floor, the Japanese-born brand, Onitsuka Tiger, has taken on a mission to show the fabulous art and technique of real Japanese tradition to the world. MINI Clubman is the latest memorial contributory casual of Onitsuka Tiger styled on the famous BMW car. It even has a shoe named Tai

Chi. Its classic style in yellow and black was Bruce Lee's favorite. The shoe's upper is comfortable with thin soles and the insoles clone the lightweight and smooth style of wushu shoes.

Eno, a creative Shanghai fashion brand that features cotton textures and creative designs with all kinds of surprising and funny artwork designed by artists from all over China, can also be found on the fourth floor. UNIQLO has grown to over 760 stores worldwide, and it also has established its first Chinese store there.

Joy City

131 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xidan, Xicheng District

Old Sanlitun gets an injection of modernity

By Gan Tian

Sanlitun, the best known and most popular bar street in Beijing, actually refers to the general area, located in Chaoyang District, and it forms part of the Gongti nightlife area. Its business grew with the economic reforms of the 1970s and early 1980s, with most bars and pubs serving expats. However, when Sanlitun Village gradually opened its stores, the old bar street blossomed with something new and modern.

Sanlitun Village is just to the west to Sanlitun Bei Jie. Swire Properties announced last year that the Village had amassed a distinguished collection of flagship and global stores there. The Village is to develop a leisure, culture and shopping community in the heart of the town. One of the first "villagers" to take up residence is Adidas. The Sanlitun location is its largest store in the world.

Facing Gongti Bei Lu, the new Adidas Brand Center is its global flagship store. Occupying over 3,000 square meters of floor space, the store brings together the brand's concept lines under one roof – menswear, wom-



Photo provided by Sanlitun Village

en's, kids, Y-3 and Adidas by Stella McCartney – yes, Paul's daughter. There is also a "mi coach core skills interactive area," where you can test your flexibility on modern equipment. The most impressive display is seen on the south wall of the store – thousands of pairs of shoes are placed inside a glass window. With the floor lighting, the wall delivers the Adidas message loud and clear – "nothing is impossible."

Other big breaking news in the village is that Apple's first retail store in China opened last Saturday, attracting thousands of fans over-

night. The store uses its original operating procedure. Customers even can book a free appointment with a Personal Shopper to get expert buying advice or get help selecting the perfect gifts for everyone on their list. From a distance, you can see the silver Apple logo shining on high, making a wonderful downtown landmark. The eclectic mix of structures that make up the shopping and entertainment district certainly shows that Sanlitun Village is making its mark on the world.

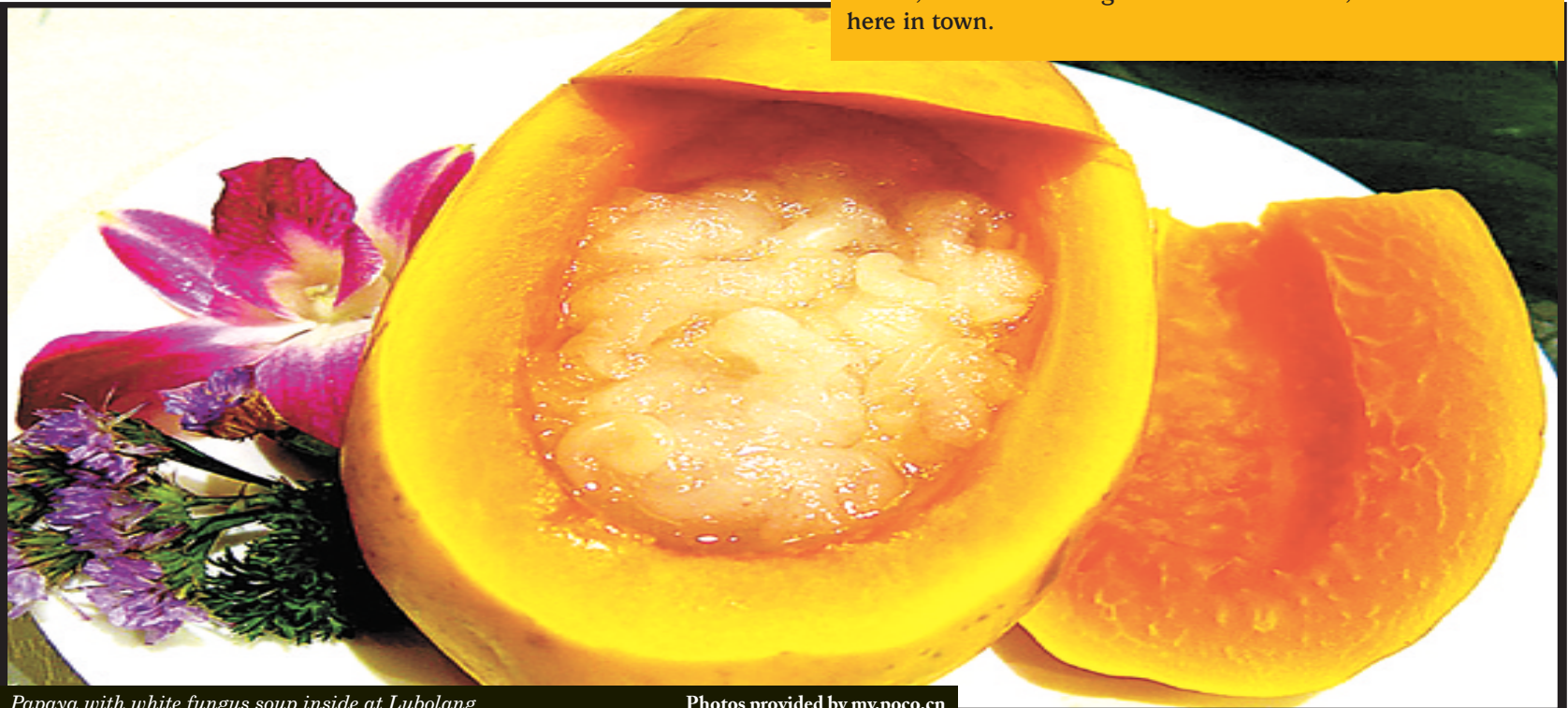
Sanlitun Village

19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Shanghaied by central flavor

By Charles Zhu

Though Beijing is far from the Yangtze River delta, Shanghai's dishes, which boast elegance and refinement, can still be found here in town.



Papaya with white fungus soup inside at Lubolang

Photos provided by my.poco.cn

Lulu's dishes full of hometown goodness

By Charles Zhu

One's nostalgia has many manifestations. Some away from home indulge in local folk songs and music, and others take fancy in photos of utensils of the old days. For me, it is hometown gourmet food that caters to my need whenever I become nostalgic for the good old days.

It is the Shanghai food that matters here. The haunts, of course, are restaurants with orthodox Shanghaiese cooking.

Of all the restaurants, I most like the Lulu Restaurant in Ciyunsi on the eastern edge of the city.

The dishes cooked by its star chefs are not greasy and are a little sweet.

Besides all the traditional and tasty dishes it offers such as blanched chicken, boiling oil-scalded chicken, cone-shaped

deep-fried Chinese perch and braised duck with mushroom, the stewed sliced fish in fermented rice sauce is the right choice for summer time. The fish fillets look so white and pure that you will feel a little bit regretful to disturb this visual piece of art.

Lulu is very special for the smoked fish it makes. So simple as it is on the table, it takes a lot of trouble to prepare and make it tasteful as delightful. You will have, first of all, to dip the cut fish meat in salty water for a while and fry it. Boil the fried pieces of deep-fried fish meat into a soup of pepper, ginger, garlic, rice wine, sugar and soy sauce and then take it out to get dry. The smoked fish with its intensity Lulu prepares is the best in town.

I have a particular liking for Lulu also because my wife found a very special Shanghaiese thing at the restaurant-*cao tou*, a fresh vegetable unique to the Yangtze River delta. You can only have it from November through April. It is reportedly airlifted from Shanghai. The vegetable must be cooked with rice wine for an authentic flavor.

For my son, the driver of the family, he is most concerned with the parking space. On Saturdays and Sundays there are many parking spaces at the playground next to the restaurant. During weekdays, you will have to park your car under the nearby Fourth Ring Road overpass.

Lulu Restaurant

Where: A1, Ciyunsi, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6508 0101



Durian cake

Cuisine created from China's best

By Charles Zhu

The cuisine of Shanghai, also called *Ben Bang Cai*, dates back to early Qing Dynasty when the erstwhile fishing village first blossomed into an international seaport. It first thrived in Shiliupu, a street by the Whampoo River, where restaurants were run by Shanghai locals as well as by Anhui restaurateurs.

During the middle of the dynasty, it peaked when western powers forced the port open and brought a flood of capital. According to "Travel Notes in Shanghai," published in 1876, the neighborhood from Xiaodongmen to Nanjing Road bristled with 200 restaurants, the most outstanding of which were Taihe and Hongyun. As trade and banking grew, merchants from Guangdong, Hunan, Sichuan, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces flocked to Shanghai – their local culinary delicacies in tow. Their arrival gave Shanghai chefs the opportunity to assimilate the best of each – Suzhou and Wuxi's in particular. The boom shifted China's culinary epicenter away from Yangzhou, a centuries-old commercial port.

Encircled by areas rich in river and lake products and facing the sea, Shanghai cuisine attaches great importance to cooking with live and fresh aquatic such as hilsa herring, crabs, river eels, sea cucumbers, shark fins and abalones.

After centuries of development and assimilation, Shanghai cuisine has grown to be a special school of its own, noted for its special braising, steaming and simmering techniques, as well as its pan-fried dishes and things cooked in fermented rice sauce. Grass carp, stir-fried before stewed, is most tasteful for connoisseurs in spring, and steamed bream and hilsa herring is the choice for summer.

When Charlie Chaplin, the famous comedic actor, visited Shanghai in 1936, he was entertained with *xiang su ya*, a kind of local roast duck, at Shanghai's International Hotel. He was so impressed by it that he asked to have another one to take home. When Premier Zhou Enlai entertained Chaplin in Geneva in 1954, he did not forget to satisfy his guest's stomach with *xiang su ya*.



Braised pork

Xinjishi, probing for peace and quiet

By Gan Tian

Xinjishi is located in the backyard of Sanlitun. A little bit hard to find, the restaurant nowadays only opens its second floor. It serves typical Shanghai cuisine within a typical environment.

As it is behind the Pacific Shopping Mall, which is surrounded by many office buildings, many of the regular diners are office workers. Some companies have cooperated with the restaurant so workers can use their ID cards to get a discount.

Most of the dishes are sweet. Winter Melon in Orange Juice, priced at 28 yuan, has sticks of winter melon pickled overnight. The winter melon sticks become crunchy and take on the glow of translucent jade.

Vinegared Cabbage with Garlic, only 28 yuan, has crushed garlic and quality dark vinegar. The cabbage is finely sliced and served with the sauce. The other green dish, Cucumber Handkerchief, is priced the same as the cabbage. The whole cucumbers are skillfully cut into long, thin, continuous sheets which are then rolled up and pickled in dark vinegar – Shanghai chefs love vinegar!

Fried Freshwater Shrimp, 58 yuan, is one of the most popular creations of Xinjishi's chef. He enhances the sweetness and softness of the shrimp without overcooking it. The sauce has to be translucent and of the right consistency to "glow."

Actually Xinjishi is a chain. It has been praised by both locals and foreigners for its modern interpretation of Shanghaiese dishes and interior decor. If you want to get away from the noisy Sanlitun pubs, consider Xinjishi.

Xinjishi

Where: Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6586 8747

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Rising star of the gourmet scene

By Charles Zhu

The Moon Festival found me at Yuanyuan Restaurant in the middle of East Third Ring Road with my family and the family of my daughter-in-law. The restaurant is up-scale and fashionable as a late-comer into the Beijing gourmet market that it could be compared to a rising guitar star at Sanlitun.

I chose it for the festival family dinner because, first of all, it has authentic Shanghaiese food. But that was not the complete story. It had a view. Standing just next door to Tuanjiehu Park, the eatery offers a unique scene of trees and a lake from its glass walls on the second floor.

Over the years, I have enjoyed Shanghai food in Beijing, and if nothing else this is what I have been looking for: Yuanyuan can be the place you missed as you try to find all that food, simple or refined, you had in the old days.

Yuanyuan boasts of its abalone, grouper, pomfret, yellow croaker, prawn, shelled shrimps dishes and jelly fish in soy sauce and vinegar. When my brother came to see me from Nanjing, I accompanied him there twice. We never tired of it.

Of all the dishes, do not miss hong sao rou, braised pork. You might laugh at me, saying that what an ordinary dish it is. Yes, it is ordinary and yet extraordinary. Believe it or not, it is the restaurant's star dish. It is a little bit expensive, above the average price, and yet it is worth it. It is cooked in such a way that you find it fatty but not uncomfortable. Time to forget your cholesterol and blood pressure!

The *sheng jian bao zi*, a kind of baozi with fillings of exceptionally lean pork, is fantastic. There are two necessary things to make it tasty and delicious. It is semi-fried and semi-steamed in a huge pan. The fillings are important. It must be lean pork. It is so watery that when you eat it you will have a sip of tasty soup inside the baozi. As a last resort, the chefs will not forget to throw some sesame and scallion on the top of each baozi.

Yuan Yuan

Where: 16 Tuanjiehu Gongyuan, (south to the West Gate of Tuanjiehu Park), Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6508 2202, 6508 0522



Braised pork at Yuan Yuan



Bacon tuna rolls

Photos provided by my.poco.cn

Would leaders dine at Lubolang

By Han Manman

Anyone who knows Shanghai cuisine has heard of Lubolang, a restaurant whose international reputation has drawn as many as 40 heads of state including Queen Elizabeth II and former US President Bill Clinton.

Lubolan, located in Beijing Landmark Tower, is designated as a foreign tourist restaurant. It is known for its Shanghai-style food, treats, shark fin dishes and its crab feast: all fresh and beautiful.

Shark's fin, known as "the treasure from the sea," is made using meticulously selected shark's fin and cooked with delicious soup. The fins go through a dozen processes in selecting, soaking, swelling, boiling, rinsing, finishing, steaming and stewing. The delicious soup is prepared from braised chicken, ham, pork ribs and longan fruits, and is delicious and fresh to the palate.

Big taste comes in small treats. In Shanghai, treats take on the form of flaky pastries – sweet or savory – stuffed with ingredients such as red beans, lotus seeds and candied

fruits. Shanghai-style dim sum are sold in bakeries and confectioneries, but can also be found in high-end restaurants like Lubolang. Chef Lu Yaming, 41, has made dim sum for two decades at Shanghai Lubolang and invented 10 treats.

He is most proud of his eyebrow shortcake. The shortcake is wrapped with three vegetables and baked until the surface turns slightly brown and crispy.

Lu served Clinton in 1998. The chef made chamomile soft cakes, an innovation twist on regular soft cakes. The normal soft cake is wrapped with red bean paste, but Lu substituted tiny chamomile petals. It's less sweet and healthier. "Clinton ate six," Lu said, beaming with pride.

Lubolang

Where: F2, Landmark Tower, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang district

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5:30-10 pm

Tel: 6590 6688 ext 2388 or 2389
Average cost: 150 per person

Flavors up in the tower



Xiaolongbao

By Gan Tian

The Hujiang Xiangmanlou is decorated to look like a *Shikumen*, the stone gate style of housing in Shanghai that blends Western elements with southern Chinese culture. The tower is an obvious sight in the Dongsishitiao area, and frequently draws Shanghai dining buffs.

Hu is the abbreviation for Shanghai, and Jiang means river. Snacks are served on the first floor of the tower, and lunch and dinner dining areas are available on the second. The main dishes are not quite the same as in Shanghai, but that's because Hujiang Xiangmanlou does them better.

Shanghaiese people are known to eat in delicate portions, so the servings are quite small. Make sure to try some of the famous buns from Shanghai, like xiaolong mantou – known as *xiaolongbao* in Mandarin – and *shengjian mantou*. They are usually 4 centimeters across – smaller than the typical *baozi* or *mantou* elsewhere.

One of the local favorites and must-try is Shanghai crispy chicken. Crispy chicken is made by first boiling the body of a chicken until its flesh is tender, then roasting it for long periods of time or until the skin goes dry and crispy.

Those two snacks are said to be the most popular Shanghai foods in town. The restaurant is a magnet for homesick Shanghai residents, so if you are looking to re-encounter old food or old friends, it might be worth a visit.

Hujiang Xiangmanlou

Where: A34, Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Tel: 6403 1368, 6403 1367

Where to eat

Lu Lu Restaurant (Ciyunsi)

Where: A1, Ciyunsi, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm
Tel: 6508 0101

Meilinge (Yuetan Branch)

Where: F2, Yuetan Tower, 2 Yuetan Bei Jie, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm
Tel: 6808 1666

Hujiang Xiangmanlou

Where: A34, Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm
Tel: 6403 1368

Shanghai Laofandian

Where: F18, Zhongshang Tower, 5 Sanlihe Dong Lu, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm
Tel: 6858 7777

Hujingyuan

Where: F4, Zhongguo Renshou Dasha, 16 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

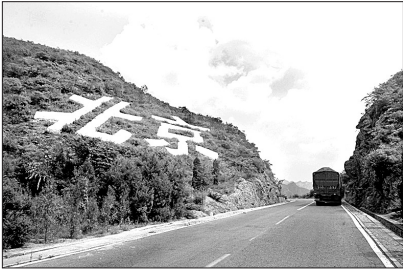
Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm
Tel: 8525 1181

Laoshanghai Shuijinggong Jiulou

Where: 15 Nanlishilu, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm
Tel: 6803 3149

(By Gan Tian)



Stone characters welcome drivers to Beijing.

The west end

Heading west from Yudouquan, there are two fields stretching north to southeast beside highway 108. Locals call the fields "damata" and "xiaomata."

Past the fields is the end of Beijing and the beginning of Baoding, Hebei Province. The end of the capital is marked with a blue sign. The large, white-stone characters for Beijing greet inbound visitors from Hebei.

Yudouquan, unknown to most urbanites, receives limited inbound traffic even on weekends.

The capital's 'Little Tibet' of the west

History of a hamlet

Although Puwa's name may sound odd to Chinese speakers, it has not diminished the value of its nearby scenic sights. Shidu, or Ten Ferries, is the nearest famous spot to the village. It is the site of beautiful cliffs and mountains, and of flowing water. If you drive to the village, you can clearly count as you pass from the first ferry to the tenth. The rivers end at the west point of the village.

Liu Jushui lives in Yudouquan. Even his name, "lots of water," reflects the locals' longing.

Despite its name, which means "fish" and "spring," the village has neither fish nor water. The name came from a corruption of Yidouqian, a deciliter of coins – the amount of money for which the hamlet was purchased some 200 years ago, Liu said.

According to village legend, a clan sur-named Wei argued over the price of the land some 200 years ago. The elders in the group decided to settle the dispute with a coin toss. The coin landed on the measure dou, which was used to measure size of money. Later villagers found the name too straightforward and changed it to Yudouquan.

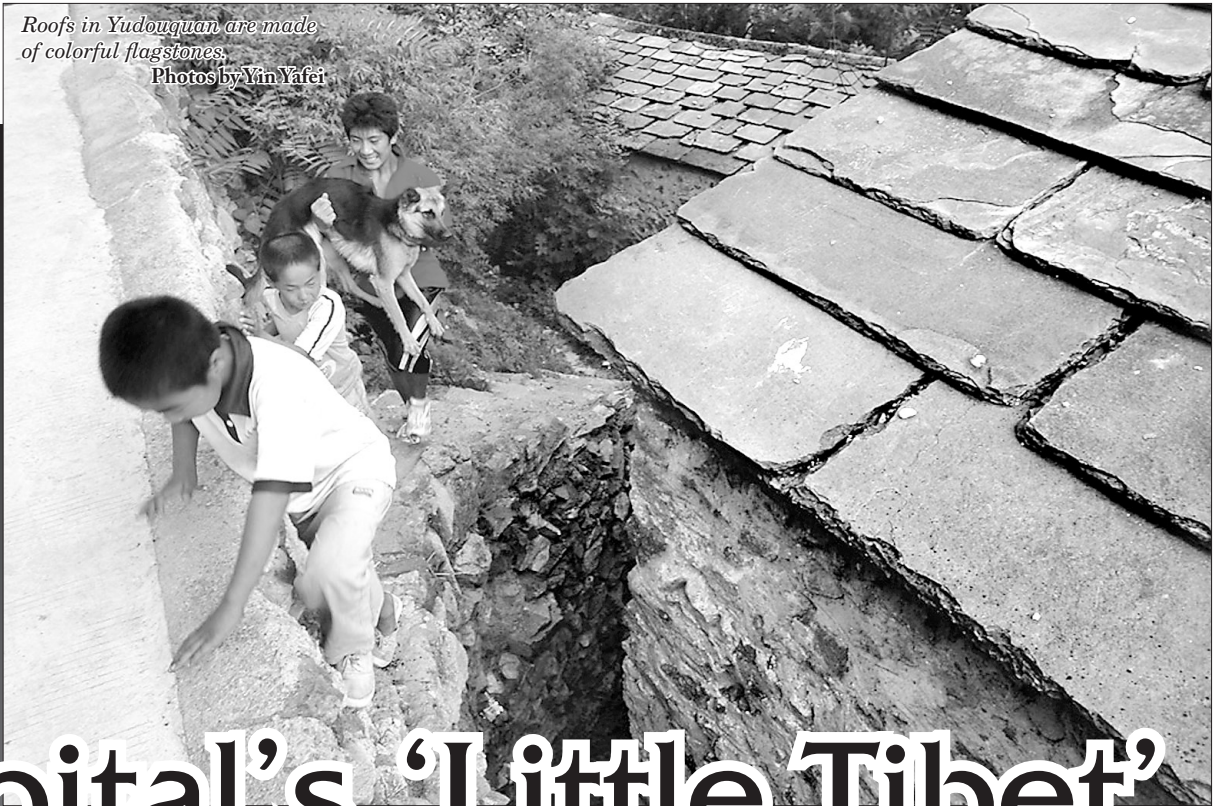
The Wei people

Wei remains a major family name in the village. Wei Fuli, a local, said his ancestors had an independent country during the Western Han Dynasty (202-208 BC). It was later defeated and annexed by the Han Dynasty (206-220AD).

When the Wei family escaped from war, they came to the Taihang Mountains. The site they settled later became Luzishui next to Yudouquan.

The Wei people made their livelihood as shepherds. Their millennia-old lifestyle gradually drew to a close 50 years ago, and the villages have turned to bee farming. In Yudouquan, two families raise bees. Since the village is in a mountainous region, flowers are scarce. Farmers move their beehives to Hebei Province after spring.

Roofs in Yudouquan are made of colorful flagstones.
Photos by Yin Yafei



By Jackie Zhang

Yudouquan, a hamlet of 300 villagers in Fangshan District, marks the west end of Beijing. It is part of Puwa Village, 122 kilometers from downtown, and its high altitude and local atmosphere have earned it the nickname "Little Tibet."

The village is bounded on its south by the Taihang Mountains, whose peaks reach 1,000 to 1,800 meters. It is a cool getaway when the rest of Beijing is boiling.



Prickly ash is sun-dried on the road sides.



Selling prickly ash is one of the ways locals earn money.

Village life

In late summer, the Chushu period on the lunar calendar, villagers begin picking ash. The aroma of the spice fills the village as it is baked at roadside stands throughout August. The ash shells turn from bright to dark red during the roasting.

Wei Hechang, a villager, said his ancestors planted prickly ash trees in the village. Every family has several trees, and each villager picks 200 to 300 kilograms of prickly ash per year - a 400-yuan haul.

Although most of the former plantations have turned to forest, each family maintains a small cornfield. Villagers used to dry corn and chili peppers on their roofs. The roofs in Yudouquan are built of large flagstones, making for a colorful burst of whites, dark reds and cyan.

For locals, flagstone roofs are the norm. "It is strange to see tile roofs in the village," Wei Gonghai, a villager said. In the past, many homes had nothing but thatch roofs. As the village prospered, the thatch went out and tiles came in. However, the tile was unseated long ago by the flagstone fad.

In summers, flagstone absorbs heat very well and keeps the interior cool. In winter, it seals out the cold.



Children climb trees in summer times.

Developing tourism

An artist village, surrounded by mountains, is under construction by Yudouquan. "It is the first step to developing the local tourism industry," Liang Xiangfeng, director of Puwa's tourism department, said.

A winding path from the artist village leads to the mountaintop. Along the way is a pavilion for tourists and climbers to take a rest. The pavilion overlooks a colorful monolith to the south, which Liang said was erected to ask the heavens for rain.

A sightseeing garden fenced in by bamboo offers visitors a chance to pick fruits and vegetables. The Tianlong Hunting Manor, en route to the local government office, is well equipped with hotels, a sauna, a bowling alley and a ropeway to the hunting grounds atop the mountain, where visitors can shoot chickens and clay pigeons.

"Our lack of water is the biggest obstacle to developing tourism. We're doing some research and trying to make Puwa a tourist destination," Liang said. "The artist village is one of the projects we hope will attract people with a taste to visit Puwa."

Getting there:

There is no direct public transportation to Yudouquan. You can take bus 917 from Tianqiao Bus station, Xuanwu District, to Zhangfang station. From there transfer to the bus bound for Zhenchang from Laishui. Get off at Zhenchang station, the nearest stop to Yudouquan. From there, you can take a taxi. The last bus to Laishui passes Zhenchang station at 4 pm.

Fried treats and ancient streets



Photo by Zhang Dongya

Despite being an important port and one of the four municipalities directly administered by the Central Government, Tianjin rarely makes the list of major cities that tourists want to visit.

However, Tianjin's rapid development may change all that, as domestic and foreign tourists look to the port for its numerous travel resources and rich history.

For tourists who want to learn about real China, Tianjin is a great place to explore. It takes only 30 minutes by expressway. It has the conveniences of a big city and the atmosphere of a small town – its residents are overwhelmingly friendly and laid-back.

Wudadao, the Five Avenues

Tianjin is a historically important city in China, though it was desecrated by foreign invaders long before the foundation of New China. The port was split apart and grabbed by eight countries: Italy, Germany, France, Russia, Great Britain, Austria, Japan and Belgium. The period of colonization left behind a permanent mark of thousands of villas, but the colonial buildings give Tianjin an exotic feel. Walking through the former concession offers a chance to enjoy old European-style complexes.

Wudadao, the Five Avenues, were concession areas occupied by Europeans at the start of the 20th Century. Actually, the Five Avenues includes six roads – Machang Dao, Munan Dao, Dali Dao, Changle Dao, Chongqing Dao and Chengdu Dao – most of which were named after cities of other provinces.

It is worth mentioning the Yueweixian Restaurant, which boasts "the only dining museum in the world." The restaurant and museum group includes three private museums: Huayun Museum, Juazhen Museum and Guya Museum. The museums offer a chance to enjoy ancient culture and Cantonese cuisine in tandem.



The old European-style buildings on the Five Avenues are a great destination for first-time tourists to Tianjin.

Photo by Zhang Dongya



Huge stamps in the Ancient Culture Street



The whole street is in Qing-dynasty architectural style.



A clay figurine shop owned by Zhang

Photos provided by Pbase.com

Ancient Culture Street

First time visitors to Tianjin who want to see the city's old cultural traditions and customs should head for Ancient Culture Street.

A giant archway inscribed with the words "Old Neighborhood of Tianjin" stands at the entrance to the street, and behind the archway is a complete street in Qing-dynasty architectural style. Walking by these gray-walled buildings with colorful streamers is like walking into the past. The most note-worthy things are the boards inscribed with the names of shops and couplets at the shop fronts, which were written by famous calligraphers.

Walking through the archway, there are shops to sell souvenirs and trinkets. One of the most famous is owned by Zhang, a clay figurine sculptor. There is also a special shop selling New Year pictures of Yangliuqing.

Tianhou Temple on the street is a well-known cultural relic of the city. Built in Yuan Dynasty, it is the oldest building in Tianjin and was listed as one of the three Mazu Temples with Meizhou Mazu Temple in Fujian and Chaotian Temple at Beigang in Taiwan.

Today, the temple also serves as a museum displaying local customs, including some fine examples of Tianjin clay work and woodblocks from the nearby village of Yangliuqing.

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Baxian Mountain in Jixian

CFP Photos

You can find all the local snacks in Nanshi Food Street.



Nanshi Hotel and Food Street

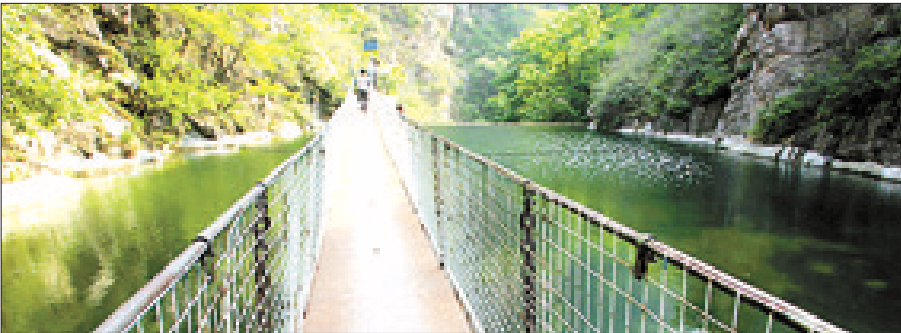
In the center of the city, castle-like twin structures stand side by side: one is the Food Street and the other the Hotel Street. Food Street is a square block gated at each end.

Its restaurants represent both new and traditional names in Tianjin, serving all eight major cuisines including Sichuan, Guangdong (Cantonese), Hunan and Shandong cuisine. Walk around the street and you can sample a taste of everything: imperial food, seafood and local snacks.

Tianjin enjoys well-known treats and most of its destinations are based around food. Its most famous four types of food are Goubuli Baozi, Shiba Jie Mahua, fried dough twists, Erduoyan Zhagao, fried sticky cakes, and Jianbing Guozi, fried dough wrapped in a pancake.

After a nice meal, head west out the Xingge Gate and into Hotel Street, which has a group of buildings modeled in the architectural style of the Qing Dynasty.

Jixian tour



Baxian Mountain is a natural ecological site in Jixian.

Jixian is a county between Beijing and Tianjin. It takes a two-hour bus ride to visit its two major attractions: the Huangyaguan Great Wall and Panshan Mountain.

The Huangyaguan Great Wall was first built during the Northern Qi Dynasty (550 - 557) and was repaired with a new design by Qi Jiguang, a general stationed in Jixian during Ming Dynasty.

That one section is considered to be a miniature of the entire Great Wall. But it also has different features from sections found in Beijing. It is built on a sharp mountain ridge. Being endowed with both natural beauty and cultural interest, it has gained fame for its natural beauty and as a summer resort. Its most-visited section consists of Huangyaguan Pass and the Taiping Mountain Stronghold. The International Marathon Race is held there every year, and attracts visitors from both home and abroad.

Panshan Mountain, located northwest of Jixian, is the first mountain east of Beijing. It is known for its beautiful peaks, dense forest, clear water and rugged rock. Going up to the mountain from the west, you can see three stages, each of which has quite different scenery. At the first stage, there is a lush growth of pines, at the second, many strange-shaped rocks, and finally numerous springs with water flowing out at the third stage.

In the past, people enchanted by the quiet and magnificence of the Panshan Mountain built temples, pavilions and pagodas there. On Guayuefeng, the highest peak of Panshan Mountain, there is a Buddhist Tower which is said to see the Buddhist Light on the eve of each Chinese New Year. At foot of the Peak, there is a temple built in Tang Dynasty.

People who would like to visit the Huangyaguan Great Wall and Panshan Mountain in Jixian can catch a tour bus from Tianjin City. The bus departs at 6 am and returns at 7 pm every day.

Tanggu seaside resort

Tanggu is the nearest seaside urban area to Beijing and is known as the Offshore Door of both Beijing and Tianjin.

The resort combines marine scenery and seaside customs. Its shoals are wide and flat, and the area has a beautiful coastline with one hundred types of marine products. The combination of seawater and hot springs is rare in a big coastal city.

Tanggu Haihe Bund Park is an important city building project in Tanggu. It is a modern city landscape economic zone integrating entertainment, shopping and food. Three large-sized cantilever structures, like three sailboats at sea, are eye catchers beside Haihe River.

In addition, there is Yanghuo Market, the Foreign Goods Market in Tanggu, with many exotic imports. Be prepared to bargain if shopping in Yanghuo.

Modern transportation like the Light Rail and the Tianjin-Binhai Highway have slashed the travel time down to 40 minutes.



Visitors go to the beach to collect shells in Tanggu.

Tips

1. A new expressway linking Beijing to Tianjin opened on July 16, shortening the intercity travel time to 30 minutes. You can also take the cheaper CRHs for 75 minutes.

2. Heping Market, located on the Shuishang Park West Road, is the best foreign foods market in central Tianjin. It offers just about everything: spaghetti, pasta, sauce, mac n' cheese, pancake

stuff, good veggies, tons of different cheeses, cereals, snacks, caviar, and bacon.

3. Alibaba's Bar & Restaurant continues to top nightlife in Tianjin. It is very close to Nankai University, and it offers free Internet access and has a "take a book, leave a book" program. Its beer is the best deal in town at 8 yuan per bottle.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Lessons in Teaming



ClarkMorgan Corporate Training

www.clarkmorgan.com admin@clarkmorgan.com 800 820 5501

Beijing Chengdu Dalian Guangzhou Hefei Nanjing Qingdao Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Wuhan

By Andy Clark

Last July I embarked on one of the most ambitious and biggest events of my career. We took all of our staff, from all eight offices in China, to Beijing for a four-day team building event. This was an important event for three reasons. Firstly, since our staff is distributed across the country, they lack the opportunity to get to know each other and build the rapport necessary to cooperate to achieve our goals. Secondly, as senior management, this was a key chance for me to form a deeper understanding of the talent within the organization. Thirdly, as we planned to develop team building as a product, a test run would give us the ability to perfect the final product. As with much of life we were soon to realize that in order to run a successful team building, the devil comes in to play.

For the first section of the trip we chose to take our team to a resort about an hour outside of Beijing.

With go-karting, horse-riding, water-strollers, archery, bowling, shooting, a barbeque with a camp-fire and sports galore, this was a perfect choice for a team of our size. For the trip out and back we decided to allocate "Bus Masters" who were in charge of running some "get to know you" games. It was decided early on that we wanted to allow all of our staff as much opportunity to lead as possible, so having team members run sections such as this allowed the management a well-needed break and both our Western and Chinese staff a chance to step up and show themselves as leaders.

After a few welcoming speeches, a quarterly review and a reiteration of our company's REDS (Respect, Energy, Dynamism, Synergy) ethos, we were ready to begin our activities. We split into six groups in order to create a round-robin system with teams moving from one activity station to the next every hour. To kill two birds with one stone we asked

each team to come up with ideas on how we could run a teambuilding game at each station. This allowed us to benefit from the creativity of our staff and we were impressed with the innovative activities they produced.

After an evening with a few drinks, singing around the campfire and a 10-pin bowling championship, the next morning at the ranch was much more leisurely. Scheduling in a bit of "down-time" is probably one of the most important elements of a project such as this. Something we had learned the hard way from our previous team-building last December. There is a temptation to fill every moment with activities, however, this will often be counter-productive as people get tired, cranky and can sometimes snap at their colleagues.

The next day was a chance to try out our "Great Beijing Race" with new teams running around Beijing with a limited budget and take as many team photographs as possible. By

changing the team members we allowed even more interaction between staff from different cities who rarely have the chance to interact. Armed with digital cameras and a number of challenges such as "team photo in front of Hu Jintao looking powerful" and "team photo on a boat, looking dry," it was up to teams to be as creative as possible with their photographic skills. The results were judged and prizes given out at our final awards ceremony, where we took over a local restaurant for another dinner and drinks.

This teambuilding project provided us with a great template for our future team activities, both for our own staff and as a new product for us to sell and furthermore it gave us plenty of invaluable lessons. We understood that attention to detail and impeccable planning are essential elements for success. We also realized that including down-time not only gave our staff a rest but allowed them to get to know each other



Andy Clark
HR Director
ClarkMorgan

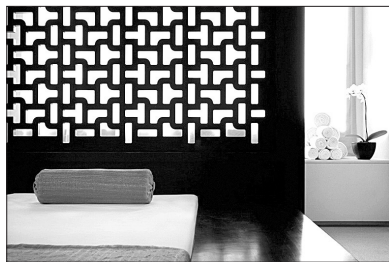
in a more relaxed and natural way. Lastly, we confirmed our belief that the most powerful resource in any company is the staff. By allowing them to shine we have improved both our product mix and the effectiveness of our company as a whole. Since last summer our revenue has continued to grow, our team has grown and we were honored to receive the training firm of the year.

Spa

Embrace serenity at the Westin Beijing Financial Street

Heavenly Spa by Westin offers you a tranquil transformation with relaxing scents, inspiring melodies and invigorating massages.

The package includes a 60-minute Chinese full-body massage and 60-minute heavenly glow facial. The traditional Chinese oil massage stimulates circulation and nerve centers through acupressure actions. Glow facials restore radiance and renew delicate facial skin whilst your skin is cleansed, buffed and massaged leaving it toned, smooth and relaxed.



Where: Heavenly Spa by Westin, Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng

When: 10 am – 6 pm, August 1 to September 30

Cost: 850 yuan (subjected to a 15-percent service charge)

Tel: 6629 7878

Dining

Serving up the world's best

The best and finest ingredients sourced from far-flung corners of the globe allow Aria Chef to serve up a feast fit for a king, from Siberian caviar and Auckland scampi to the finest French cheese and Australian sirloin. Come and find out why only the best is good enough for award-winning Aria's degustation menu in August.

Where: Aria, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Cost: 1,150 yuan (per person)

Tel: 6505 2266 ext 36

(By Li Jing)

Hotel

New Novotel debuts at China's Silicon Valley

Novotel was launched by Accor in Beijing in the heart of Zhongguancun Science and Technology Zone. Featuring the latest hi-tech equip-

ment, the hotel has 317 designer rooms and two premier floors. Meeting rooms provide multi-media services for customers.

Aviation



British Airways strives to be green

Aviation is an essential part of the modern world but also has a huge impact on our environment. British Airways is well aware of that, and strives to be green and do its part.

It has reduced CO2 emission by improving fuel efficiency and completed five years of participation in the UK voluntary emissions trading

scheme to reduce its UK emissions by 23 percent. It is also one of the first airlines to enable its customers to offset their flight emission. In addition, Terminal 5 and eco-friendly aircraft pay special attention to environment protection.

British Airways was the first airline to report its environment performance 16 years ago.

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com



All paintings sold in Cao Yong International Art Gallery are prints priced to spread art among Chinese consumers.

Photo provided by Cao Yong International Art Gallery

Lucky nights at Lucky Street

By Jackie Zhang

Lucky Street, a food street in the Lufthansa area, offers posh residents an attractive dining alternative. During the four years since its operation, new restaurants, massage parlors and clubs have opened in succession. Its proximity to the Japanese embassy has attracted many Japanese restaurants, bars and massage chambers to the street.

Lucky Street, at 29 Zaoying Lu next to the west wing of the Century Theatre, is lined with four-story, independent, European-style buildings. Thirty-six catering services are on the street, offering Sichuan, Hong Kong, Japanese, Korean, Thai, German, French and tropical fare, as well as fusion cuisines.

North of Lucky Street are new foreign embassies; the street itself aims to serve both Chinese and overseas guests in a small, English town environment. Although the signs and menus are written in Chinese, the waiters and waitresses speak English.

(Chu Meng contributed to this story)

Japanese foot massage at the Jian Shan Chamber

By Venus Lee

After dinner, exercises or a night at the bars, a massage or pedicure can be a relaxing treat. Jian Shan Massage Chamber, a Sino-Japanese joint venture on Lucky Street, is a brand-new massage chamber which will open formally on August 8 just before the Olympic Games, but trial massages are underway.

Jian Shan's spacious rosy- and cream-colored interior is split into two floors. It connects out to the Music Lounge Bar, which is under the same ownership, Zen Group. With Kurazen restaurant next door, it is a great place to recover from a day's travels.

"Japanese customers visit frequently because there are a lot of Japanese people living nearby. Since the massage parlor is near Chaoyang Park, where the beach volleyball event will take place, we expect to get more visitors from

Jian Shan Massage Chamber
Photo by Li Zhixin

other countries," Zhao Shanying, the manager, said.

The chamber offers several kinds of massages, which cost 50 to 800 yuan depending on the duration of time and service. A pedicure costs 100 yuan per hour. An oil pressure massage, which uses essential oils from Japan, costs 800 yuan for two hours.

Jian Shan Massage Chamber

Open: 9 am-midnight
Tel: 5867 0261

Journey of art and adventure

By He Jianwei

Cao Yong International Art Gallery, opened in August 2006, is the only gallery on Lucky Street. All paintings sold in the gallery are prints priced at tens of thousands of yuan to spread art among Chinese consumers.

The artist's life is legendary. His seven-year experience in Tibet resulted in a remarkable series of paintings titled the Split Layer of Earth: Mount Kailas. In this series, he addresses the conflicts between the physical and the spiritual. In the spring of 1989, Cao held his first solo exhibition at Beijing Artist Gallery.

His next journey was to Japan, where he faced a new challenge: how to survive as an artist in a free-market economy. He worked as a gravedigger for 18 days. After that, he thought he should paint again. Within a few years, Cao's murals adorned stylish commercial buildings, high-class department stores and even ceremonial sites in Tokyo and Kyoto.

In 1991, Cao founded his first company, C & G Wall-Painting Productions, and was soon recognized as Japan's most honored muralist. He continued to work passionately on his Tibet paintings, and many of his finest works in the Tibet series were created during this period.

He emigrated to the US in 1994, where he continues to paint stunning and beautiful landscapes that have won international acclaim. In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Cao created Freedom, a painting to honor the people who died and reaffirm global ideals of peace and freedom. This breathtaking image garnered enormous public interest in the US.

Visitors can view Cao's oil paintings and watch a video about his experiences for free.

Cao Yong International Gallery

Open: 10 am-9 pm
Tel: 5867 0229



The Nashville bar looks more like an American Liquor store.

Photo by Rain Tian

Country memories, Nashville style

By Jackie Zhang

Nashville Bar & Restaurant is located on Lucky Street in Chaoyang District. The bar used to be on Sanlitun South Street, but moved in December 2005 when Beijing took a wrecking ball to it and the rest of the road.

The interior puts visitors in the hills of Tennessee. The red brick walls with pictures of country music singers, wooden tables, chairs and bar counters all take visitors back to the real Nashville.

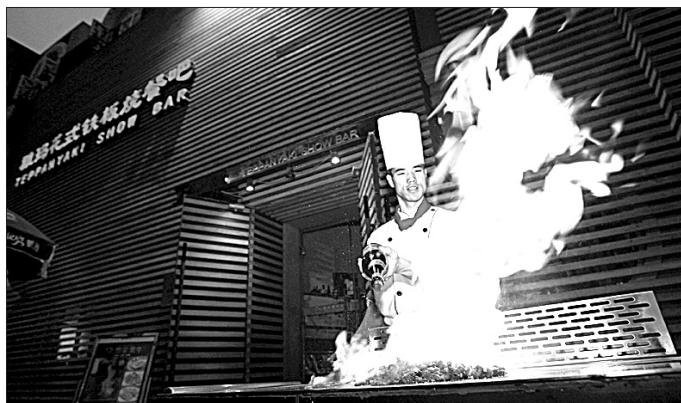
The big selection of beers is one of the bar's big selling points. "We provide around 50 kinds of beer imported from all over the world," Chen said.

Nashville Bar is the only bar in Beijing serving draft Boddingtons from Manchester, England, and the UK ale is, surprisingly, the signature beer for this American bar. Boddingtons is known as the cream of Manchester thanks to its smooth head and silky swallow. There's also Guinness imported from Ireland: deep black and bitter. The bitterness is pretty sweet for regular drinkers.

Nashville Bar is famous for its cigars. In the humidors you'll find 50 to 60 different kinds. Cigar clubs meet regularly at the bar to enjoy a good smoke in good company.

Nashville Bar

Open: 11 am-2 am the next day
Tel: 5867 0298
Cost: 50 yuan per person

Chefs perform at Yama Teppanyaki Show Bar
Photo by Rain Tian

Beef too pampered for your plate

By Jackie Zhang

There are varied sayings about the origin of *teppan-yaki*. Some say it was created by Spanish sailors, some say it originated in World War II when soldiers cooked food on their helmets and others say Japanese people combined their food with western food on hot teppans in front of their guests.

Regardless of how it began, *teppan-yaki* is a hit in many countries. In Yama Teppanyaki Show Bar, visitors can have a teppan-yaki dinner while watching the cook's spot performance.

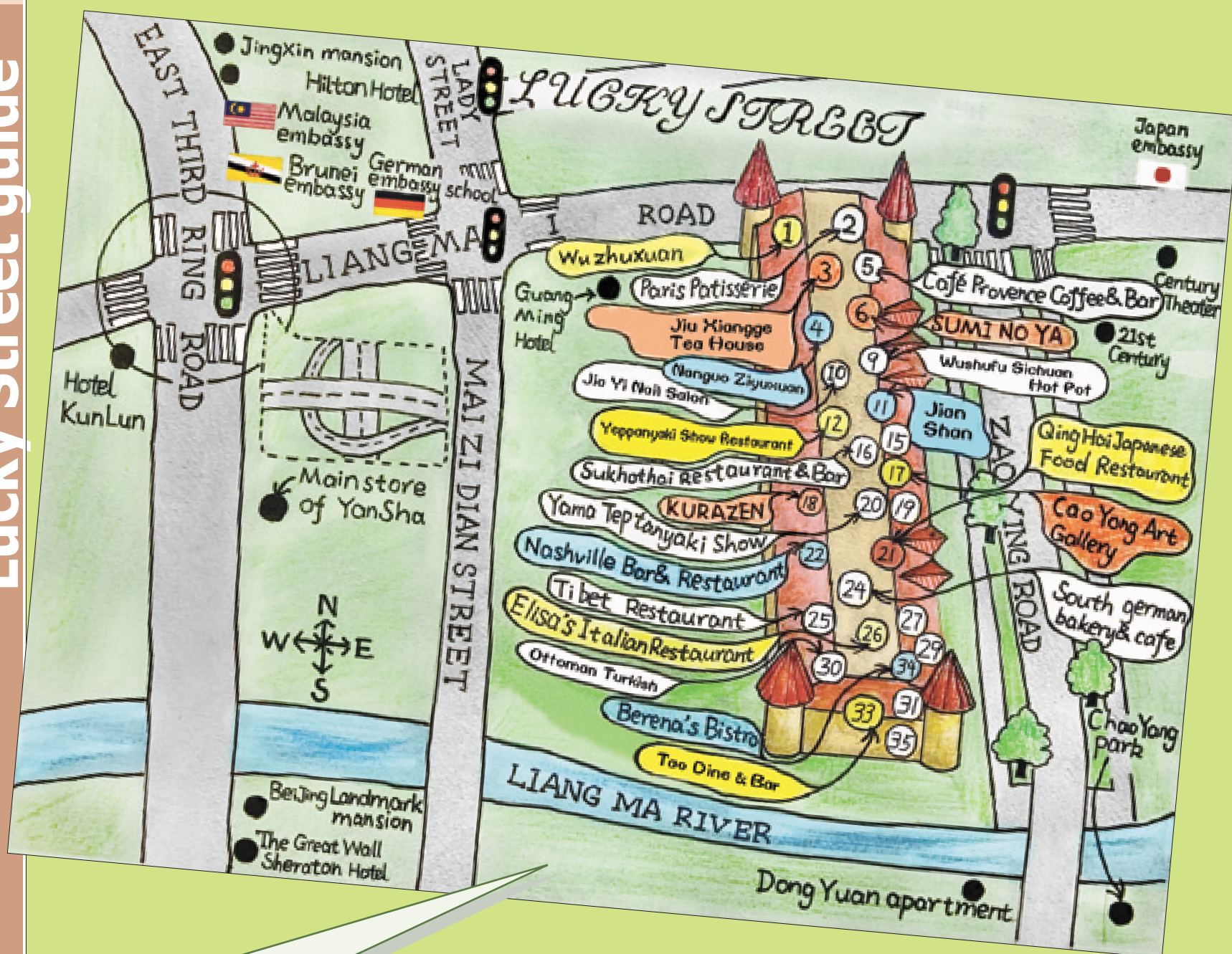
Guests can also dress in the cook's clothes and have their own try.

Yama serves a special brand of beef. Its bulls are specially fed on the farm. They are allowed to drink beer, listen to relaxing music and massaged often to encourage even fat distribution over their body. Meat cut from these bulls has a better and different flavor, the cooks said.

Yama Teppanyaki Show Bar

Open: 11:30 am-2:30am next day
Tel: 5867 0238, 5867 0236
Cost: 100-120 yuan per person

Continued on page 24 ...

**1. Wuzhuxuan South Korean restaurant**

Open: 10 am–10 pm
Tel: 5867 0285/30

2. Paris Patisserie

Open: 7 am–11 pm
Tel: 5867 0258

3. Jiuliange Tea House

Open: 10 am–2 am next day
Tel: 5867 0208

4. Nanguo Ziyuxuan Restaurant

Open: 10 am–2 am next day
Tel: 5867 0279

5. Cafe Provence

Open: 7 am–2 am the next day
Tel: 5867 0206

6. Simi No Ya Japanese Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am–2 pm, 5:30 pm–midnight
Tel: 5867 0205

9. Wushufu Sichuan Hot Pot

Open: 9:30 am–midnight
Tel: 5867 0256

10. Jia Yi Nail Salon

Open: 10:30 am–10:30 pm
Tel: 5867 0252

11. Jian Shan Massage Chamber

Open: 9 am–midnight
Tel: 5867 0261

12. Yeppanyaki Show Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am–2:30 pm, 5:30 pm–10 pm

Tel: 5867 0238, 5867 0236

15. Music Lounge Bar

Open: 8 pm–4 am next day
Tel: 5867 0261

16. Sukhothai Restaurant and Bar

Open: 10:30 am–2:30 pm, 5 pm–10 pm
Tel: 5867 0211

17. Qing Hai Japanese Cuisine

Open: 11:30 am–2 pm, 5 pm–10 pm
Tel: 5867 0218

18. Kurazen Japanese Cuisine

Open: 10 am–2 pm, 5:30 pm–10:30 pm
Tel: 5867 0281

19. Lohao City Organic Shop

Open: 5867 0265 ext. 801
Tel: 9 am–10 pm

20. Yama Teppanyaki Show Bar

Open: 11:30 am–2:30 am next day
Tel: 5867 0238, 5867 0236

21. Cao Yong Art Gallery

Open: 1 pm–10 pm
Tel: 5867 0229

22. Nashville Bar and Restaurant

Open: 11 am–3 am the next day
Tel: 5867 0298

24. Cafe Konstanz South German Bakery

Open: 9 am–midnight
Tel: 5867 0201

25. Yang Jin ma Tibetan Restaurant

Open: 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Tel: 5867 0226, 5867 0228

26. Elisa's Italian Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am–11 pm
Tel: 5867 0291, 5867 0292

27. Sangria Club

Open: 4 pm–midnight
Tel: 5867 0248

29. White Rabbit Club

Open: 10 pm–early morning next day, Thursday to Saturday
Tel: 133 2112 3678

30. Ottoman Turkish Cuisine

Open: 10 am–11 pm
Tel: 5867 0210

31. Punjabi Indian Cuisine

Open: 11:30 am–11:15 pm
Tel: 5867 0221, 5867 0223

33. Tao Dine & Bar

Open: 11 am–2 pm; 6 pm–11 pm
Tel: 5867 0209

34. Berena's Bistro

Open: 11 am–11 pm
Tel: 5867 0266

35. Hong Kong Seafood Hot Pot

Open: 11 am–10 pm
Tel: 5867 0260, 5867 0290
Cost: 60–100 per person

(By Jackie Zhang)